



MARATHON NAMES

Runners who did it in four hours

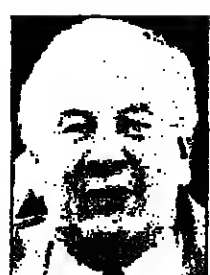
Results, pages 42, 43



JOHN BETJEMAN

Father of the young fogies

Peter Ackroyd, books, page 42



PETER USTINOV

With the sage who knows his onions

The Valerie Grove interview, page 14

30P

THE TIMES

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THURSDAY APRIL 21 1994

Vera Lynn threatens to join boycott

Ministers in retreat over D-Day plans

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

D-DAY anniversary plans for Britain were degenerating into a shambles last night as the Government was forced to rethink the centrepiece attraction of a jamboree in Hyde Park.

Dame Vera Lynn, the troops' favourite wartime singer, threatened to join veterans in a boycott of the main event in the fiftieth commemoration of the Normandy landings.

Ministers were trying to salvage the July 3 festivities after pressure mounted from many quarters for it to be scrapped. Some Conservative MPs want it postponed until next year.

Dame Vera said: "If the boys don't want it to happen and are not going to go, then I may not go either. Until they get themselves sorted out I'm left in abeyance."

Field Marshal Lord Bramall, former Chief of the Defence Staff, went close to disowning the civilian events, including the Hyde Park extravaganza. Lord Bramall, who has been claimed by John Major as an ally, said: "I have never seen any of the detailed programme that they were going to do on civilian events."

He said he had nothing to do with the "jollies" being planned by the National Heritage Department and he was not sure that they were appropriate, but he had been closely involved in the military ceremonies being organised by the Defence Ministry.

He added that it was not until ten days ago that he had been invited to a meeting to plan the civilian events and



Lord Bramall: Are the jollies appropriate?

had been unable to go because he was abroad.

Conservative MPs were voicing dismay last night at the way that what had once appeared to be an innocuous celebration had turned into yet another banana skin for the Government and Mr Major. There were signs of a Whitehall split, with the Defence Department and Downing Street distancing themselves from the detailed planning of the civilian commemoration.

Some believe that the Prime Minister, who will face more embarrassing questions on the issue in the Commons today, may be forced into a retreat on the Hyde Park event. It is scheduled for almost a month after the anniversary and some would prefer it to be postponed to next year's VE Day celebrations.

The Heritage Department said last night that planning for the jamboree "is in its early stages". It added: "Service men's organisations will clearly

be closely involved in discussions over the next two months. There was never any intention to offend servicemen and we expect them to offer advice in the planning."

Dame Vera had been invited to sing at the July 3 festivities. Yesterday she said that plans for "trivialous" events such as spin-fitter competitions were misplaced and that the emphasis should be on remembering the dead. "I think it would be a much better idea to postpone it to next year, because there would be really something to celebrate," the 77-year-old entertainer said.

"I can quite understand John Major wanting to show that something is being done to commemorate D-Day, but I think they might have underestimated the thought behind it. The accent should have been more on remembering the sacrifices."

Most Tory MPs believe that the involvement of two government departments in planning the events is at the root of the difficulties facing the Government. The decision to appoint Sir Tim Bell, Baroness Thatcher's public relations guru, to promote the event inevitably gave it a party political flavour that Labour has been able to exploit.

Leslie Pross, chairman of the Normandy Veterans' Association, who met Peter Brooke, the National Heritage Secretary, to voice his opposition to the events, said yesterday: "I still think that this year has to be one of thankfulness and remembrance. I have heard nothing that suggests that the



Dame Vera yesterday: "If the boys are not going to go, then I may not go either"

Hyde Park event will be suitable."

Lieutenant Colonel Philip Cressy, secretary general of the Royal British Legion, urged Mr Brooke to cancel the event which he dismissed as a "just not appropriate". Peter

Mandelson, Labour MP for Hartlepool, welcomed Dame Vera's remarks and said he hoped "that this will have knocked some sense into the Government's heads."

Eighty-seven per cent of 14,342 viewers who responded

last night to a telephone poll by the regional ITV news programme *London Tonight* said the Hyde Park event should be cancelled.

Veterans score, page 2
Leading article, page 17

Clarke puts tight rein on Tory MPs' tax cut hopes

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND JANET BUSH

KENNETH Clarke yesterday curbed backbench Tory hopes of tax cuts in the autumn as encouraging figures on state borrowing and unemployment gave the Government a badly needed twin boost after the turmoil of recent weeks.

Supported by other Treasury ministers, the Chancellor insisted that there would no relaxation of the tough spending curbs and tax rises announced in the autumn. Despite his austere stance, there were calls from Tories and the Institute of Directors for Mr Clarke to use the windfall to cancel some of his tax rises, in particular the second stage of the imposition of VAT on domestic fuel next year.

Other MPs, mostly on the right, were reluctant to take his words at face value, predicting that the strengthening economic recovery would enable him to reverse some of his tax increases before the next election.

The key elements of the good news were a fall of 30,300 in seasonally adjusted unemployment last month, reducing the overall jobless tally to a 21-month low of 2,722,000, and a £4 billion undershoot on the public sector borrowing requirement in the year ending this month.

The Chancellor made clear, however, that he was not about to relax the brakes, emphasising that, at £46 billion, the PSBR was still at a huge level and would have to come down sharply. "The judgment last November was correct. It was essentially tight control of public spending, some tax increases, some widening of the tax base. That is the course we must remain set upon."

His words were clearly aimed in part at limiting the ambitions of hard-pressed ministers as the Cabinet limbers up for the annual tussle

over spending programmes. Michael Portillo, the Chief Secretary, also ruled out any policy shifts, warning MPs in the Commons that the lower-than-forecast PSBR resulted from factors that were unlikely to be repeated. Although it was right to "celebrate the good news", the PSBR bonus stemmed not from unusually buoyant tax revenues but from greater discipline in central government spending and bigger debt repayments by local authorities.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said that with a PSBR at £46 billion the country was still paying a huge price for 'Tory economic failure'.

Earlier Mr Portillo told a press conference that the urgency of the need to tackle the PSBR was undiminished by the undershoot.

Treasury ministers added that, at £46 billion, the PSBR cost about £4 billion a year to finance in interest payments, equivalent to about 2p off the basic rate of income tax. "What is important is that we have a path for the future to bring the PSBR down to zero by the end of the decade and we must stick to that path," Mr Portillo said.

Mr Clarke said he fiercely disagreed with politicians whose reaction to such good news was to say "things are getting a bit better now — let's start spending, let's start borrowing". He added that reducing the PSBR would leave more room for growth and make it easier to keep inflation under control.

There were calls, however, from Andrew Bowden, Tory MP for Brighton Kemptown, and Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former minister, for Mr Clarke to use the windfall to cancel some of his tax rises, in particular the second stage of the imposition of VAT on domestic fuel next year.

Deficit beats forecast and jobless fall, page 25

Hoover lost £48m in free flights fiasco

HOOVER'S free flights fiasco cost the company £48 million, it was disclosed yesterday.

The 1993 report of Maytag, Hoover's Iowa-based parent company, reveals the full financial cost of the campaign. The firm had previously estimated it lost £20 million in the promotion, which offered two air tickets to everyone who bought a Hoover product worth more than £100.

The company took on 250 extra staff and bought thousands of flights, but failed to appreciate how popular the promotion would be and was overwhelmed when about one million people took part.

Deadline rush, page 7

Arts	37-39
Births, marriages, deaths	38
Business	25-30, 32-33
Chess	7-48
Court and Social	18
Crossword	24
Diary	16
Leading articles	17
Letters	17
Obituaries	19
Weather	24
TV & Radio	47

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Property sales could catch thousands in local tax trap

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FOR-SALE sign outside a neighbour's house could herald a shock increase in council tax bills for thousands of homeowners, it was confirmed yesterday.

About two million properties are in the wrong tax band, and local valuation offices are using sale prices to help them to correct mistakes made in the hurry to replace the poll tax three years ago.

Sellers who achieve prices well above expectations are likely to find that their house has been moved into a higher band and to receive a demand for unpaid council tax dating back to April 1993.

Now the Treasury has confirmed that their neighbours could also be sent a backdated bill if a valuation officer decides selling prices suggest that some or all similar houses are in too low a band.

The revised tax demands could amount to hundreds of pounds in undertaxed streets where it is several years before houses come on the market.

There could, however, be benefits for other householders. If a house fetches significantly less than suggested by its banding, its owner and neighbours in similar properties should get a refund.

The quirks of the council tax system, which came into effect only last year, have been disclosed in written Treasury replies to Jamie Cunn, Labour MP for Ipswich, where 93 houses have been put into different bands after being sold; 77 went up and 16 down.

Anthony Nelson, the Treasury economic secretary, told Mr Cunn: "Where a property is reviewed or rebanded following a sale which indicates that the original entry in the

compiled valuation list was incorrect, and the listing officer is aware that similar properties in the locality may be incorrect, the banding of those properties is reviewed."

Douglas Henderson, the shadow local government minister, said: "Removal vans and sale boards from estate agents will now be striking fear into the hearts of council tax payers all over England. This is the sort of problem that results from a valuation exercise not conducted properly."

The Inland Revenue said that valuation officers were duty-bound to consider all relevant evidence in maintaining accurate lists. But it played down the threat to homeowners: "You shouldn't panic if you see a for-sale board outside your neighbour's house, unless you believe that you were banded incorrectly in the first place."

An Environment Department spokesman said that houses sold at a high price often had special features such as high-quality interior fittings, extensions and swimming pools. There was no reason why neighbouring houses, lacking such features, should be affected. "It is a theoretical and legal possibility but practically very unlikely," he said.

The National Audit Office said two million homes, one in ten of the total, were in the wrong band with roughly half paying too much and the rest paying too little. The slow-moving appeals process is whittling down the number paying too much, but those paying too little are unlikely to be aware of their good fortune or are hoping they will not be discovered.

HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS

ALL 21 million homes in Britain have been put into one of eight bands based on estimated prices in April 1991. Appeals against bandings were allowed up to November and of the 914,000 received, a third have been processed.

Band changes can be made by the valuation office, which checks every house sale for anomalies. If the value increases, the owner receives a bill backdated to last April. If it decreases there is a rebate.

The Inland Revenue is not collecting centralised figures for the number of changes made by the 100 local valuation offices. The bands are

enforced in the law that created the council tax and will remain in force for as long as the law exists.

There is no provision for a review of the procedure, and the valuation office puts new houses into a band when they are built. Eventually the banding will be a series of relative values of property and will bear no relation to the 1991 valuation.

Improvements made since last April will not lead to a change in the property's value band unless it is sold. If the value is increased the new owner will have to pay at a higher rate.



Almost 50 years after D-Day orders were sent, top, from Southwick House, Hampshire, the HQ of Operation Overlord, to launch the Allied invasion, Bob Hare, coxswain of a landing craft heading for Juno beach, left, acted as guide at a commemorative exhibition, right, that opened at the house near Cosham yesterday

Veterans score on the D-Day front

By ALAN HAMILTON

■ The Royal British Legion's latest battle, apart from its interest in the D-Day activities, is to see a minister for veterans in the UK

MESS around with old soldiers at your peril. Britain may be one of the few Allied nations without a minister for veterans but, as this week's dispute over the D-Day commemorations has shown, the Royal British Legion is a powerful voice in the lobbies of the sympathy vote.

One word on Tuesday from Lt Col Philip Creasy, the Legion's general secretary and a former comptroller to the Prince of Wales's household, was enough to make the Government think again.

Lt Col Creasy may well be the most effective voice ever to emerge from the Royal Army Pay Corps. His earlier experience as an officer in a Gurkha battalion may have assisted in the stiffening of his sinews.

Founded by Field Marshal Earl Haig in 1921, the Legion is Britain's premier ex-service organisation, with nearly 750,000 members comprising veterans, their widows and

dependants, as well as associates who join simply because they support its aims. As nearly one-third of the nation's population are the wives, widows or children of one-time soldiers, it claims to speak for 16 million people.

Most glorious among its recent battle honours is its victory against Margaret Thatcher four years ago in erasing the anomaly that the war widows of servicemen killed before 1973 were paid a lesser pension than those who died in more recent conflicts such as the Falklands and Northern Ireland.

Today the Legion's principal fight is to persuade the Government to appoint a minister for veterans, as exists in most other Nato countries, instead of them having to

consult at least 17 different departments when fighting a war on behalf of a war widow. That battle is not yet won.

Last year the Legion raised more than £13 million from its annual poppy appeal, a figure which rises every year despite the great war gradually fading into memory. It has more or less recovered from a financial scandal four years ago, when some £1 million of funds disappeared down the black hole of an ill-advised property venture, prompting the Charity Commissioners to conduct an investigation into the Legion's affairs.

One of its proudest boasts is its pensions advisory service, which helps ex-servicemen, their widows and dependants to extract their full dues from

the Ministry of Defence and the DSS. Last year, for an outlay of £364,000, it retrieved more than £18 million.

Alf Morris, Labour MP for Wythenshawe and one of the Legion's two parliamentary advisers (the other is Sir Marcus Fox, chairman of the Tory backbench 1922 committee), said yesterday: "The Legion are an extremely dedicated bunch of people who are not without parliamentary clout. But for them to be more effective, the Government needs to be much better organised in dealing with veterans' affairs."

Wars of half a century ago are not the Legion's sole concern. Within the last few months it has opened a £4.6 million training college at Tidworth, Wiltshire, to help redundancy victims of the defence ministry's Options for Change to cope with the hostile world of civilian life.

D-Day shambles, page 1
Leading article, page 17

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Lessons on brevity and rare species

Short questions and short answers can be the most devastating. With the Government's environment team at the dispatch box yesterday, junior minister Robert Atkins was burbling contentedly away in reply to the York MP, Hugh Bayley (Lab). Bayley wanted to know about the meetings of "departmental green ministers". Responding, Atkins mouthed the usual long-winded platitudes about environmental concerns.

But for the query from Yorkshire's Sir Don Thompson (C, Calder Valley), Atkins was unprepared. Bluff, genial, spherical Sir Don rumbled to his feet. "Tell me what green ministers are."

Atkins shot a panic-stricken glance at Thompson, praying that this was not the end of his question. But Thompson had resumed his seat. The blandest of smiles flickered on the Yorkshireman's face.

The micro-second for which the minister was silent, mouth open, probably seemed longer to Atkins himself. The ministerial brain whirled. They — an emergency switch was located and thrown. It cannot be said that he answered the question, but for some 30 seconds, word-like noises emitted from his throat.

Among these I noted the phrase "... the use of materials, energy and other matters, are done on a regular basis ...". The rest was less lucid.

During the exchanges which followed, Robert Atkins must have asked himself what lessons could be learned. Perhaps to the question: "What are green ministers?" the reply: "What you'd expect, snarlpants" would have had the required finality? So, adopting for himself the motto "in brevity, strength", Atkins began offering backbench-

ers a taste of the medicine Sir Don had dished out. Simple Yeses, Noes and Maybes were soon taking MPs by surprise. Madam Speaker purred. An efficient schoolmarm, to keep the lessons moving is her constant quest. She scolds ministers who are not "crisp". Young Robert was assuming the role of teacher's pet.

But Atkins's new tactic had a brutal side, as two of the gentlest of Tory backbenchers found. Kenneth Carlisle (C, Lincoln) and Michael Fabricant (C, Mid-Staffs) had turned up to tell the minister how much they cared about what Fabricant called "endangered wild species of flora and fauna". Thoughtful Mr Carlisle with his shy smile and majority of 2,049, and straw-haired, windblown Michael Fabricant themselves resemble vulnerable wild creatures.

Like two small, rare orchids pecking through the grass on the motorway's edge as the great political juggernauts go thundering by, Fabricant and Carlisle had hoped to impress upon the environment minister the fragility of little-noticed species in Britain. Should not the Government cherish biodiversity, said Fabricant, and help protect beleaguered red squirrels, pine martins and stragwort?

Mr Atkins stood up. "Yes," he said, and sat down. Fabricant gaped.

Atkins was more patient with Carlisle, but patience deserted him altogether when Labour's George Foulkes suggested that Tory councillors and MEPs were an endangered species facing extinction. One creature deserving of no attention at all, replied the minister, to Foulkes, "is the Loud-Voiced Bamboozler".

Miss Boothroyd looked slightly shocked. Teacher's pet had gone too far.

Bottomley accused of perversity over Bart's

Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, was accused in court yesterday of being "perverse and irrational" in her decision to close the accident and emergency unit of St Bartholomew's Hospital, central London. As the boroughs of Hackney and Islington, with a local resident, began a judicial review of the decision to close the unit, Lord Lester QC told the High Court that the consultation procedure was fatally flawed because Mrs Bottomley had effectively decided to shut down the unit by the time statutory consultations began.

Mrs Bottomley and the North East Thames Regional Health Authority had also failed to give proper consideration to the views of those consulted. Lord Lester asked two judges to make an order quashing the closure authorisation. The hearing is expected to last three days.

Boy on arson charges

A 15-year-old boy appeared before Stockport Youth Court on charges connected with alleged arson attacks in the town at the weekend. The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, is alleged to have set fire to three cars, causing damage estimated at £3,000. He was remanded to a young offenders' institute until tomorrow.

Inheritance bid fails

A man who bludgeoned his parents to death has failed in his attempt to inherit their £163,000 estate at a hearing before Chancery Court in Liverpool. In 1990, John Jones, 33, was found guilty of the manslaughter of John Ivor Jones, 68, and Rowena Jones, 66, at their home in Llandudno, Gwynedd, on the ground of diminished responsibility.

Boy on rape charge

A boy of 13 accused of raping a 12-year-old girl appeared before magistrates in the Isle of Wight yesterday and asked for his case to be heard by a stipendiary magistrate. He was bailed to appear at the island's Youth Court in June. His solicitor has indicated he will plead not guilty to the charge, allegedly committed in November, when he was 12.

Council chief cleared

David Bookbinder, former Labour leader of Derbyshire County Council, was cleared yesterday of financial irregularity in expenses claims. Mr Bookbinder, 53, had claimed a loss allowance for his council work as a director of a consultancy firm. The District Auditor said that his employment as a director of the company he once owned was genuine.

Touting law widened

All ticket touting for football matches will be made illegal after pressure from trading standards officers. The Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill was due to outlaw agreed to make all football ticket touting an offence with a maximum fine of £5,000.

Britons back flogging

Thousands rang a newspaper hotline yesterday to agree that yobs in Britain should be flogged to stop crime. The Sun by 6pm last night to agree with flogging, compared with 688 lashes for spray-painting cars in Singapore.

Tax cuts

Continued from page 1
Clarke to divert at least some money into cancelling the planned VAT increase on fuel to 17.5 per cent next April. Mr Bowden said that such a move would cost about £3 billion and would help everybody.

Sir Rhodes said that on the local election doorstep, voters were complaining bitterly about higher taxes. Mr Clarke should divert about £2 billion into scrapping stage two of the VAT increase.

David Hunt, the Employment Secretary, said that Britain was outstripping the rest of Europe in cutting unemployment. It was the only big country where it was below 10 per cent.

John Prescott, the shadow Employment Secretary, infuriated Mr Hunt by saying the jobless figures were "fiddled" and that the true figure was five million.

The jobless figures were coupled with less positive news on average earnings, which rose by 3.5 per cent in the year ended in February. The combination alarmed the City where shares fell sharply — the FTSE-100 index closed down 29.7, at 3098.3 — as dealers reckoned it could mark the start of wage inflation and prevent another interest rate cut from 5.25 per cent.

Analysis pointed out, however, that although average earnings might have bottomed out, the increase was largely due to one-off higher bonus payments.

Mr Clarke said: "I do not think we have the beginnings of pay inflation, but it is extremely important that the British get used to low inflation."

Economists said hopes of lower interest rates could hinge on today's retail sales figures. If they supported growing signs of weakening activity, they would strengthen the case for a rate cut.

Deficit beats forecast and jobless fall, page 25

'IRA godfather' was target of cash trail raids

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A WEALTHY Dublin businessman, known as the "IRA godfather" because of the hundreds of thousands of pounds he channels to the Provisionals, was the main target of Irish police during raids in the republic on Tuesday.

The man, who is in his 40s and comes from South Armagh in Northern Ireland, evaded capture. He owns substantial property in Dublin and is said to co-ordinate several rackets that have benefited the IRA.

The man is believed to be one of a number of businessmen who provide the IRA with essential financial and logistical support. Some give the appearance of respectable businessmen and their interest in the IRA stems from financial benefit rather than any commitment to republicanism.

The raids, in an operation codenamed Madronna, were the biggest crackdown on the IRA's fund-raising network. More than 1,000 police officers on both sides of the Irish border and throughout England raided 41 addresses. The operation was the culmination of 12 months of intensive work by the police.

In Dublin a special unit set up by Irish police in 1991 has concentrated on the Provisionals' growing links with criminal gangs in the republic who provide the £7 million a year needed to fund the IRA.

Irish police have also been focusing on front men used by the IRA to raise funds. They have bought up hotels and pubs in the republic. Police in Dublin have been investigating 20 pubs in the city. Three men detained in the Irish Republic during Opera-

tion Madronna were released without charge yesterday. Two were allegedly involved in stealing cars and one in minor drug dealing.

Security sources in Dublin said that the operation was aimed primarily at smashing evidence to smash the IRA's fund-raising network rather than on arresting individuals.

The IRA last night issued a statement denying it was involved in organised crime and drug-dealing. "The orchestrated propaganda offensive that sought to link the IRA to criminality, and particularly to drugs-related crime, is a transparent and cynical attempt by the British particularly to damage republicans," it said.

A security source said, however, "There is no doubt that if raising money means dealing with people who steal cars, they'll do it," one source said.

In London last night two men and two women, all thought to be British, were still being questioned by detectives after the raids, which netted drugs that included 2kg of Ecstasy. □ Albert Reynolds, the Irish Prime Minister, called yesterday for greater security to protect Northern Ireland's nationalist community from attacks by Loyalist gunmen.

He told the Daily there had to be stepped-up measures in Belfast's vulnerable areas in the face of continuing Loyalist shootings, and spoke of his "grave concern and condemnation of the recent series of brutal and indiscriminate sectarian murders by Loyalist organisations".

Since the beginning of this year, Loyalists have been responsible for eight of the 11 murders committed, he said.

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Headless corpse of millionaire may be linked to shootings

BY KATE ALDERSON

THE murder victim whose head was found 75 miles from his body has been identified as a Kuwaiti millionaire, believed to have been involved in a £600,000 dispute with one of two Jordanians shot last weekend.

The naked and burnt body of Adnan Abdul Hameed Al-Sane, 46, was discovered in December near Piccadilly station in Manchester. His head, which had been hacked with a machete to make it unrecognisable, was found in Carnock, Staffordshire, six weeks later.

Mr Al-Sane, a retired banker who moved to London in 1986, was involved in a civil action to recover £600,000 from a Jordanian man who was shot last weekend in Paddington. He and a Jordanian woman who was also shot, by two men of Arabic

appearance, are in a serious condition in St Mary's Hospital, Paddington.

Detectives from the Greater Manchester and Metropolitan forces are studying possible links between the two attacks. Police in Manchester said yesterday that Mr Al-Sane's death probably had a financial motive.

His remains were identified after a friend recognised a clay reconstruction of his head, which had been made by Richard Neave, of Manchester University. Dental records in London confirmed the identification last Friday.

Mr Al-Sane, of Maida Vale, was described as a quiet, single man with a limited social life. He was last seen alive when he dined with a friend on December 14 at the Britannia Hotel in Grosvenor Square, London. He left the

friend, who works in finance, at the hotel to take a taxi home at about midnight, and was not reported missing until January.

Det Supt Bernard Rees said there was nothing to link Mr Al-Sane with the Manchester area and he is trying to establish whether he had been abducted from London and then murdered in Manchester. "It is bizarre and mystifying," Mr Rees said yesterday. "A financial motive is the only one I can think of at the moment."

Relatives who travelled to London after the murder said a number of box files relating to financial matters were missing from Mr Al-Sane's flat, although there was no evidence of a break-in.

The murdered man's brother spoke yesterday of his shock at hearing of the manner of his death. Speaking from the family home in Kuwait, the brother, who would not give his first name, said: "We are very distressed to hear of his death; we would not wish that on anybody. We don't have any explanation for why he was killed in such a terrible way."

Mr Al-Sane came from a wealthy family and was joint-owner of an unidentified bank in Kuwait. He speculated in stocks and shares for pleasure while in London, and police believe their strongest lead in identifying his murderer could come from someone who brokered for Mr Al-Sane during the past eight years or from friends he dined with. He did not have a girlfriend, police said, but was close to a woman who ran errands for him.

Mr Rees said the murder did not have the hallmarks of a contract killing. Mr Al-Sane had probably known the killer as he had apparently made no attempt to defend himself. Referring to the killer, Mr Rees added: "It is obviously somebody who made great efforts to make sure we didn't identify the body, or at least to give them a great deal of time between finding the body and identifying it, which could well be related to his financial matters."



Patricia Maxwell-Scott did not hear alarm

Priceless heirlooms stolen from Scott shrine

BY TONY ARMSTRONG

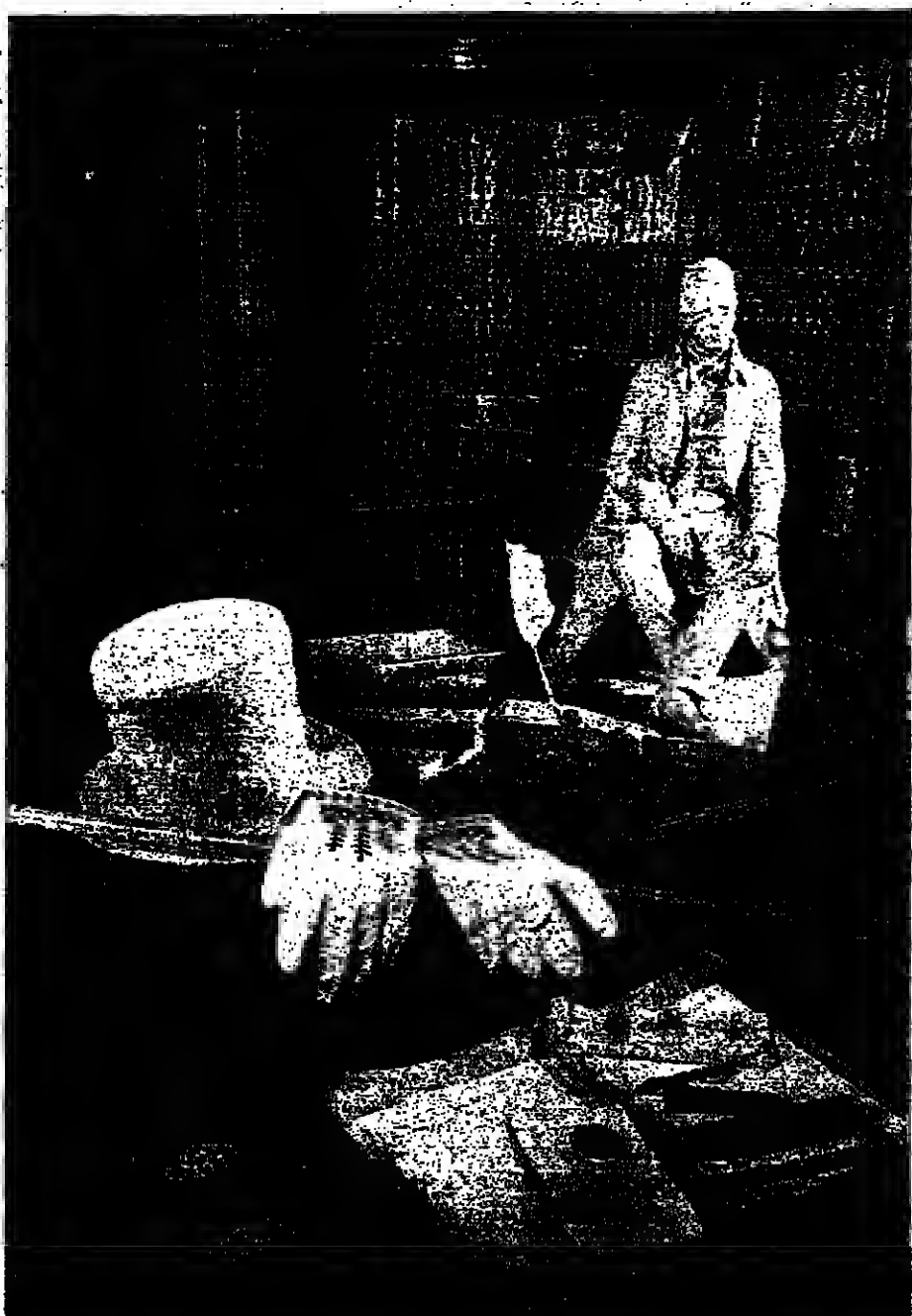
PRICELESS heirlooms and collectors' items were stolen yesterday from Abbotsford, the former home of Sir Walter Scott.

Thieves broke the bars on a downstairs window of the historic house, one of the top tourist attractions in the Borders, and raided the library and Chinese drawing room, smashing exhibition tables and cases.

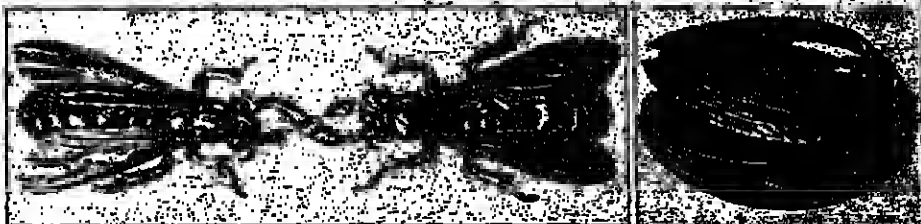
A precise tally of the stolen items is still being worked out by the police, but missing items include a quiche (whisky flask) belonging to Bonnie Prince Charlie, a snuff box of the Old Pretender, who was hailed by the Jacobites as James III. Napoleon's cloak clasp, a seal used by Mary Queen of Scots and Sir Walter's personal tea service.

A Borders police spokesman said: "This was a professional raid. The thieves went mostly for gold and silver items but left unique relics like the lock of Bonnie Prince Charlie's hair, which is probably unsalable. When they realise how identifiable some of the stolen items are they may be dumped or melted down."

Sir Walter, one of Britain's greatest and most prolific 18th century authors, built Abbotsford, overlooking the River Tweed, in 1822 and was an avid collector. His library contains more than 9,000 rare volumes. Many of the hundreds of other exhibits in the house would fetch high prices



Sir Walter Scott's desk in the library, which contains some 9,000 rare volumes



Missing Napoleon's coat clasp and a snuff box belonging to the Old Pretender

on the international black market.

Patricia Maxwell-Scott, Sir Walter's great-great-granddaughter, said yesterday: "This has been very distressing. There is glass all over the inside of the exhibition cases and we are trying to work out with the police just what has been stolen. The things that we already

know to have been taken are quite priceless. The alarm system appears to have been activated but we did not hear it."

Abbotsford is a virtual shrine to the memory of Sir Walter and Mrs Maxwell-Scott and her sister Dame Jean Maxwell-Scott, who live in one wing, devote themselves to maintaining it.

Dame Jean is a lady in waiting to Princess Alice.

Last year it was the second top tourist attraction in the Scottish Borders after the Duke of Rothesay's Palace, Castle and attraction 64,279 visitors. The house was due to be open to the public yesterday but the raiding means were closed off and only limited hours were conducted.

Solicitors held over £1m legal aid fraud

BY A STAFF REPORTER

LEGAL aid fraud reaping more than £1 million has been uncovered in Manchester. A firm of solicitors that encouraged benefit claimants to apply for EC surplus butter and then duped them into making bogus legal aid claims is understood to be at the centre of the investigation.

Two solicitors and two legal executives were being questioned by police last night after a series of raids on businesses and homes in the Greater Manchester area.

The arrests come after a five-month investigation by Greater Manchester police and the Legal Aid Board in London. More than 50 police officers raided legal firms in Manchester and at Leigh, Bolton and Bury and seized a quantity of legal documents.

Details about the two male solicitors, one female legal executive and a male executive being held in police custody have not been disclosed but police confirmed they worked for the same company. "This is a major fraud investigation," said Det Insp Graeme Bell, of Leigh CID.

It is understood that the law firm encouraged pensioners and unemployed people to apply for subsidised butter and beef from EU surpluses. Legal personnel then told them that they could apply for legal aid to help them with benefit claims, and duped them into signing the entailing forms.

The Legal Aid Board's investigations unit initiated 226 investigations into alleged legal aid abuses during 1992-93, of which 26 were referred to the Crown Prosecution Service and five are awaiting Crown Court trial.

The board is currently investigating several hundred possible cases of frauds by solicitors on the legal aid fund. Changes to local government over the past decade have increased opportunities for fraud and corruption, according to a report published May for the Audit Commission by the independent watchdog Public Concern at Work. The report found that new ways of devolving responsibility for budgets gave more people the chance to cheat or steal than in the past.

Putting a face together

THE scientist who rebuilt the face of Adnan Abdul Hameed Al-Sane had to fit together more than 100 pieces of bone.

Professor Richard Neave, a medical artist, worked for 10 days with pathologist Dr Robert Stoddart and anatomist Dr John Humpherson and other staff at Manchester University Medical School painstakingly piecing the skull together before the process of rebuilding the probable features could begin.

"The actual reconstruction of the face in this case was no more or less difficult than any of the others," he said. "But it

was one of the most difficult in getting to the point where we could make a cast of the skull. At the end I was satisfied we had a fairly good likeness but I was aware it was less accurate than it might have been."

Professor Neave said the technique relied on the logic of relating the proportions of the face to the underlying bone structure. The technique has given him a success rate of between 50 and 60 per cent in the 14 cases he has tackled. He said, however, that success ultimately depended on an element of luck.



Mr Al-Sane, who was decapitated



A clay model of the dead man's head

Copy machine forgers jailed for five years

BY A STAFF REPORTER

TWO forgers who used an ordinary office photocopier and typewriter correction fluid to print £1.5 million in fake £20 notes, were each jailed for five years yesterday.

Anthony Chalk, 32, a businessman, and Kurt Sandberg, 33, a former soldier, produced notes that were so convincing they were "virtually impossible" to detect. The racket was discovered when detectives raided an industrial estate near Brecon, Powys.

Mr Stephen Rees, prosecuting at Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court, said detectives found a box full of £20 notes when they searched Sandberg's home at Penryn, Cardiff. They also found piles of burned paper in his garden,

where he had made a bonfire of more than £100,000.

Engineers called to examine the Canon photocopier said it had been used so much "it was run into the ground like a workhorse".

Lee Karu, defending Chalk, of Beulah, Powys, said the men began burning the fake notes shortly before the police raid. He said: "They came to their senses and realised they had gone far beyond their capabilities. They then started burning the notes."

Judge Roderick Evans told the men their offences were motivated by personal greed. He added: "This was without doubt a sustained and professional counterfeiting operation."

Mother tells of day murdered girl vanished

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE frantic search by a mother for her five-year-old daughter was described to a murder trial yesterday, almost 11 years after the girl disappeared.

Annette Hogg said Caroline had pleaded with her parents to be allowed out to play after returning home "full of fun" from a friend's party on July 8, 1983.

Mrs Hogg had said no, but her husband John had said she could go out for five minutes. Caroline's naked body was found 12 days later 308 miles from the family home in Portobello, Edinburgh. It was near a lay-by at Twycross, Leicestershire.

Robert Black, 47, a van driver from north London, denies nine charges, including murder, arising out of the disappearance and deaths of Caroline, Susan Maxwell, 11, and Sarah Harper, 10. He also denies kidnapping Teresa Thornhill, 15.

In a statement read by counsel at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court, Mrs Hogg described her daughter as a happy child who enjoyed the company of other children. She had gone out to play wearing the lilac and white gingham dress and silver oval locket she had put on for the party that afternoon, with her hair in buns.

At about 7.15pm, Mrs Hogg decided it was time for her daughter to come in. "I went to the front of the house and shouted her name out loud, but there was no reply. I looked at the back but there was no sign. I saw Stuart [her 11-year-old son] who was playing football outside but he had not seen her either."

"John went down to the promenade and shouted for her, but there was no reply. Stuart and I went looking over garden walls but there was still no sign."

After about 40 minutes, Mrs Hogg widened her search in the nearby school playing fields where some children had been playing rounders. But there was no trace of her daughter. She and her hus-

band searched a fun fair on the promenade and the beach. At 8.30pm they called the police.

Mrs Hogg said her daughter had been told many times not to go far from the family home. "I only let her play in the school playground or the housing estate behind our house where there was no traffic. She had been smacked on one occasion for going to the park."

Mr Hogg said in a statement read to the court: "She had been forbidden to go to the park. I do not think she would readily go with strangers. She had been warned about bad men and she had also seen a video at school. I



Caroline Hogg: she went out to play

can only think she was enticed by someone who was able to gain her trust. She would not go with someone she did not know."

Nichola Docherty, who was 10 at the time, was playing rounders when she saw Caroline walking alone towards the promenade at about 7.15pm. She said: "Then I saw this man. I became suspicious because he looked weird. He was smoking a cigarette. The man hung about for no reason for a few minutes." She described him as 5ft 9in and aged between 20 and 30.

Andrew Casey, also playing rounders, said he had seen a man walking towards the promenade. "He looked like he needed a shave."

The trial continues today.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



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IN
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The best of British food from
Britain's best food writers

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Cookery Writer of the Year —, celebrates
St George's Day and Jonathan Meades
reviews the English restaurant

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The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this Society will be held at the Society's Offices, at Surrey House, Surrey Street, Norwich on Friday 13 May 1994 at 11:30am for the following purposes:

Ordinary Business

To receive and consider the Accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 December 1993 and the reports of the Directors and Auditors.

To elect Directors in the place of those retiring.

To re-appoint Ernst & Young as Auditors of the Society and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

Special Business

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolutions which will be proposed as special resolutions:

Special Resolutions

1 That the Memorandum of Association of the Society be altered, by deleting the existing clause 3 and substituting therefor the new clause 3 set out in the printed document marked "A" submitted to the meeting and initialled by the Chairman thereof for identification.

2 That the Articles of Association of the Society be altered, by deleting the existing Articles and adopting in their place the new Articles set out in the printed document marked "B" submitted to the meeting and initialled by the Chairman thereof for identification.

3 That, conditional on the passing as a special resolution of resolution 2 set out in the notice dated 21 April 1994 of the Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held on 13 May 1994, the Articles of Association adopted by that resolution be altered by deleting Articles 1, 15, 17, 18, 23, 25 and 82 thereof and substituting therefor respectively the new Articles 1, 15, 17, 18, 23, 25 and 82 set out in the printed document marked "C" submitted to the meeting and initialled by the Chairman thereof for identification.

By order of the Board

J D STANFORTH

Secretary

Surrey Street

Norwich NR1 3NG

21 April 1994

Explanatory notes on the special resolutions

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Society were last generally reviewed in 1976, although many of them remain in the form adopted by The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society Act in 1905. The alterations which are to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting are aimed at updating the constitution into a more modern form, and reflecting best corporate practice in a number of areas. Some significant changes to membership and voting rights are also proposed.

1 Resolution 1 provides for the alteration of the Society's objects clause in order to update and broaden it. The alterations include an extension of the express statement of the financial transactions in which the Society may engage and an extension of its powers to provide benefits for present and former employees, Directors and other officers and other persons. The terms of the proposed new objects clause are set out in document "A" which is referred to in the resolution.

2 Resolution 2 provides for the adoption of new articles of association, which are set out in document "B" referred to in the resolution. The proposed new articles include some substantive changes, including the following:-

- **Nomination of Directors** - At present, a member may make such a nomination not less than 14 days before the relevant meeting of the Society. Under the proposed new articles, any person wishing to make such a nomination will be required to obtain 10 member signatures in support and supply them to the Society between 42 and 28 days before the relevant meeting. The Society will then be required to advertise the fact that it has received such nomination.

- **Executive Appointments, Remuneration and Pensions** - At present, a non-executive Director who accepts an executive office with the Society is obliged to vacate office as a Director unless he obtains the sanction of a general meeting of members of the Society. This provision would, in practice, fetter the ability of the Board to appoint one of their number to an executive position even on a temporary basis and is therefore deleted in the proposed new articles.

In keeping with standard corporate practice, under the proposed new articles the Directors may: (i) appoint any of their number to executive office, (ii) decide the terms of such appointment, and (iii) make remuneration and retirement provision for executive Directors.

- **Non-executive Directors' Fees and Pensions** - The aggregate limit on Directors' fees for their services as Directors, that is otherwise than pursuant to employment contracts, contained in the Society's present articles has

remained unchanged at £100,000 per annum since 1983. The Society has the power to increase this limit by ordinary resolution. The Society shares a common board of directors with three of its subsidiaries, Norwich Union Holdings plc, Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Limited and Scottish Union and National Insurance Company and Directors of the Society also receive fees from the first two companies. The current aggregate limits on fees which may be paid to directors of Norwich Union Holdings plc and Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Limited, again otherwise than pursuant to employment contracts, as specified by the articles of association of these companies, are £100,000 and £70,000 per annum respectively.

The proposed new articles introduce a new global limit on the fees which the Directors of the Society receive for acting as directors of the Society or any of its subsidiaries. The new global limit of £270,000 per annum equates to the sum of the three existing limits. The new article gives the members of the Society the opportunity to set the limit on the total remuneration received by its Directors, otherwise than in respect of the services of certain of them as executive Directors. As presently, it will be open to the Society to increase that limit by ordinary resolution.

The Society's existing articles provide for a limit on the aggregate amount of funding for pension provision that the Directors may make for non-executive Directors (that is excluding pension provision made pursuant to employment contracts). This limit is currently set at £25,000 per annum, being one quarter of the existing limit on non-executive Directors' remuneration. The proposed new articles reduce this to a new fixed limit of £20,000 per annum and also provide that the Society shall not make pension provision for any non-executive Director appointed on or after 1 October 1990 reflecting the Society's existing practice.

3 Resolution 3 provides for the alteration of the Society's articles of association which relate to membership of the Society and voting rights. The terms of the proposed new articles are set out in document "C" referred to in the resolution. The following changes are proposed:-

- **Membership** - At present, each joint grantee of a policy becomes a member of the Society and can vote on a show of hands, although only one can vote on a poll. Under the proposed alteration only one joint holder of a policy can be a member in respect of that policy. In the absence of the unanimous agreement of the joint holders to the contrary, this will be the joint holder first named on the policy or Instrument of assignment of the policy.

Additionally, the grantee of a policy currently remains a member of the Society even if he assigns the policy to someone else. The Society therefore has a category of member which has no financial interest in its affairs and conversely there is a category of policyholder which is not entitled to membership. Under the proposed alteration, a person who has taken an assignment of a policy (other than by way of mortgage) shall be entitled to become a member in place of the original holder.

- Further, the proposed alterations will confer on the Directors power to grant membership of the Society to the holders of any category of policy granted by another insurer but taken over by the Society, such as, for example, those policies granted by Scottish Union and National Insurance Company and transferred to the Society in 1967, and the policies granted by Norwich Union Asset Management Limited and transferred to the Society in 1992.
- **Voting** - At present members are entitled on a poll to up to 5 votes according to the size of their policies. The majority of members have 5 votes. Under the proposed new articles this tiered system will be replaced by one member one vote.

NB The proposed alterations to membership and voting rights will affect and remove existing rights, and confer rights, in respect of existing policies, as well as in respect of future policies.

An explanatory information pack including a copy of the current Memorandum & Articles of Association of the Society, the proposed altered Memorandum & Articles of Association of the Society and a further explanation of the proposed changes is available to members by one of the methods described below. Members are asked to quote the number of one of their life or pension policies with The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society when applying:-

- by written request to the
Secretary's Department
The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society
Surrey Street
NORWICH
NR1 3NG

In addition, copies of the printed documents marked "A", "B" and "C" may be inspected by members at the above address, during business hours from the date of this notice to the start of the Annual General Meeting.

Poverty and racism distort recruitment to legal profession

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ENTRY to the legal profession is determined by money, class and colour, according to a survey of British law students.

The survey of more than 4,000 students, published yesterday by the Law Society, found that those who were black, less affluent or from non-prestigious universities faced considerable obstacles in entering the law.

In particular, it says, firms of solicitors discriminate against black students when offering articles, even though they are well represented among law students.

The president of the Law Society described the findings as "shocking"; the Society of Black Lawyers said it confirmed its worst fears about discrimination suffered by black students who wanted to be lawyers.

The main finding of the survey, the first part of a six-year study conducted by the independent Policy Studies Institute, was that a student's chances of success in entering the profession were closely linked to the prestige of his or her place of education: students from independent fee-paying schools were markedly over-represented among law undergraduates.

"This suggests that tomorrow's lawyers come from affluent backgrounds," the survey says. It adds that when it comes to trainee places in law firms, figures indicate that black students suffer "direct discrimination".

While British-based white students had a 47 per cent chance of obtaining traineeships with law firms, the chances for British-based blacks was 7 per cent.

Law firms preferred to re-

cruit from established universities, but ethnic minority students were most concentrated in the new universities (former polytechnics) and least concentrated in Oxbridge and The College of Law, which runs the Law Society finals course.

The report follows an enquiry into allegations of racism at the Bar's law school which concluded that barristers' chambers were discriminating against blacks in offering pupillages. Both reports coincide with increasing competition to enter the legal profession and a shortage of trainee places — both articles in law firms and pupillages — because of the recession.

Yesterday's study found that white students had a 45 per cent chance of winning a place on the society's legal practice course — the one-year vocational course which precedes entry into the profession — compared with 12 per cent of black students, because blacks were more likely to be studying at former polytechnics.

It found that the most important factor in predicting

whether a student would receive the offer of a place was the institution at which he or she was studying, with undergraduates at the new universities least likely to succeed. Ethnic minority students were disadvantaged by being concentrated in the new universities.

Finance is an important obstacle for many students: the survey found that in their final year, 58 per cent of law students had debts averaging £1,224.

Rodger Pannone, president of the Law Society, said: "I am distressed to see the data relating to the success rates of ethnic minorities in finding a place on legal practice courses." The society would ensure the institutions running the courses were aware of the findings.

He said that the findings on student debt were also disturbing, and those on the allocation of trainee places by law firms "shocking".

"It is very worrying therefore to discover that the process of entry into the legal professions is stacked against those from less affluent backgrounds or that firms select their trainees on the basis of ethnic origin."

He added: "We have warned the Government that unless it changes its policy on access to grants for legal education, future generations of lawyers will consist of those from wealthy families. This research now proves that this will inevitably happen."

Entry into the Legal Professions: The Law Student Cohort Study Years 1 and 2 (from the Law Society Shop, 227/228 Strand, London WC2R 1BA; £20)



Pannone: shocked at the report's findings



The Labour MPs Bryan Davies, second left, and Alan Simpson carry the injured Henry McLeish, Labour MP for Central Fife and a former professional with Leeds United, from the pitch during the annual football match between MPs and journalists at Wembley Stadium yesterday. The Press Hackers beat the MP Wobblers 4-2

Why she chose The Times



Linda Barnes, who teaches children with learning disabilities in Woking, switched from The Daily Telegraph to The Times to take advantage of the price cut. She has found she is happy with the format of the paper.

"My family is very sporty and we found the sports coverage to be very comprehensive and offering a lot of variety," Mrs Barnes said. "My husband is an actuary and has found the business pages to be a good read."

Confronted teenagers attack man

By ROBIN YOUNG

THREE teenagers, one of them a girl of 13, were being questioned yesterday after a man was struck in the face and had his leg broken in six places trying to stop a burglary at a neighbour's home.

Roger Bishop, 49, a building site manager, was hit in the face with a chisel after confronting three people outside the house in Portsmouth. He was then kicked as he lay on the ground.

Marjorie Riley, 53, said: "I feel so guilty because I saw them looking through the neighbour's letterbox and I called Roger out. I can't believe the way they attacked him. They were like savages."

Mr Bishop is comfortable in hospital in Cosham, Hampshire, where he had an operation to reset the bones in his left leg. He said that in spite of what happened he would do the same again. "You cannot let these people get away with it. They do not care what damage they do, but you cannot give in to them."

Det Chief Insp John Harvey, of Portsmouth police, said he was appalled by the incident. "Mr Bishop was attempting to be a good citizen. For his trouble he got attacked by people we can only describe as the criminal joy element of the city."

"The others being questioned about the incident are boys aged 16 and 17.

Gun killing trial hears of gentle victim

THE flatmate of a Cambridge graduate believed to have been killed in a case of mistaken identity told the Old Bailey yesterday: "I don't think he had ever done anything wrong in his life."

Martin Jacks, 23, a trainee accountant, was shot at close range by three masked men who burst into his flat in Putney, southwest London, while he was watching television. The court has been told that the gunmen had probably got the wrong address and had mistaken him for someone else.

Simon Bourne, 24, who was at Cambridge with Mr Jacks and shared the flat with him, told the court that his friend did not have a care in the world. Mr Bourne, a management consultant, said that on the day of the shooting he had gone out to buy a dinner jacket for a Cambridge ball and had left Mr Jacks sitting on the sofa watching cricket.

He told the jury: "He was very much his normal self. He



Jacks: "No one will say a word against him"

was enjoying relaxing and taking a break from his studying." Mr Jacks, who worked for a City accountant, had been preparing for final accountancy examinations.

Mr Bourne said that when he returned from shopping there were police officers at the flat who told him that his friend had been murdered. Asked if Mr Jacks had any problems at that time, his friend said: "Absolutely not." Mr Bourne added: "I don't think Martin had ever done anything wrong in his entire life. He was a gentle, easy-going, laid-back person."

Nigel Sweeney, for the prosecution, said the victim was a wholly innocent young man. "I am sure no one is going to say a word against him during this trial."

Arron Bamborough, 23, and Roland Thorp, 26, both of Chessington, south west London, deny murdering Mr Jacks last June. The trial continues.

Coroner urges seat-belt check

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

FORD engineers want to examine a car in which a man died in case a safety fault could affect thousands of the company's most popular cars.

Paul Forrest, the Avon coroner, yesterday called on Britain's biggest car company to check seat-belt designs for the Ford Orion after the death of William Gill, a retired prison officer, in a head-on crash.

More than one million Escort and Orion cars, which share the same designs, have been sold in the UK over the past ten years.

Mr Forrest, recording a verdict of accidental death, said that the seat belt in the E-registered Ford Orion driven by Mr Gill should have been fitted to the floor instead of the

seat, which left its mountings in the collision.

All Escort and Orion cars are fitted with belts attached to the seats and not the floorpan.

Mr Forrest told the Bristol inquest: "It is of great concern that the seat-belt housing was fitted the way it was. When the seat sheared its mounting, it rendered the belt inoperative."

Mr Forrest yesterday started an investigation that will include examination of the car if it is made available to engineers.

But the company reassured Escort and Orion drivers that the case involving Mr Gill, 64, of Leyhill, Avon, was the only one to come to light after years of making the cars.

Mr Gill was on a rural road near Leyhill Prison when his

Orion crashed. Because the runner mountings on the driver's seat sheared off, the seat was thrown forward, rendering the seat belt useless. Mr Gill suffered multiple injuries and died in hospital a week after the accident in November last year.

Ford said it needed to see whether there was a general fault. "There are so many variables in this. This car was several years old and we have no idea of its condition at the time of the accident."

"We can say that we have made these cars by the thousand with no problems. We have found that attaching the belt to the seat provides better protection for all shapes and sizes of drivers."

No witnesses to car man's death

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE case of the man who died of a heart attack while chasing a car radio thief is likely to enter the legal textbooks, detectives believe. Their original murder enquiry has been reduced to a manslaughter investigation, and there are fears that the suspect will only ever be charged with theft.

The problem is that, despite a case which Det Supt Gavin Robertson said had "quite rightly outraged the nation", nobody has come forward to say what happened between Shoukat Ali, 39, of Hornsey, north London, and the thief on Monday night.

When Mr Ali's wife and daughter followed him into an alley where he chased the thief, they found him already lying on the ground unconscious and alone. Detailed interviews have failed to corroborate initial suggestions that Mr Ali was visibly kicked and punched.

The post mortem examination found cuts and bruises, but they were "inconsistent with a severe beating". The injuries could even have been caused by Mr Ali collapsing if the suspect is caught, the question which Crown Prosecution Service lawyers will have to determine is whether the theft of the car radio directly led to Mr Ali's death.

Mr Robertson said: "I am treating this as a case of manslaughter. That's the way I intend to progress until I am told otherwise by those more learned in law than myself. The crux of the matter now is the causation. I'm going to aim for that. Our job is to do our best for the family and the local community and that's catching the chap. We are

determined and dedicated to do that. What happens to him after we arrest him is a matter for the Crown Prosecution Service and the courts."

Lawyers are consulting precedents going back to 1908 to see if a manslaughter charge could be applicable. Without any evidence that Mr Ali was attacked in the alley, the prosecution would need to establish that the incident of the car radio theft itself caused him to have a heart attack and die.

The pathologist has helped this process, by deciding that "the emotional and physical stress of chasing and confronting the thief" brought on the heart attack. Although Mr Ali was a 39-year-old diabetic with a history of high blood pressure, the suspect could still be charged with manslaughter. Even if a person is dying, it is possible to be accused of killing them if one's actions hasten that death.

A policeman working on the investigation said yesterday: "This is a type of case that ends up in the House of Lords."

Manslaughter sentences have caused public outrage lately, particularly the case of the supermarket shoplifter who punched a schoolboy who challenged him. The teenager died from choking on his vomit while on the ground, and his killer received a four-year sentence. The case was referred to the Attorney-General, but he declined to appeal against sentence. Legal sources said that sentence was appropriate, and even quite high, for what lawyers call an "unlucky blow" manslaughter.



Hill: win or lose, he will not be jailed

Judgment day for Paul Hill

By A STAFF REPORTER

PAUL HILL, a member of the Guildford Four, will learn today whether he has been acquitted of murder for a second time and can expect substantial compensation from the Government.

The Northern Ireland Court of Appeal, headed by the Lord Chief Justice, Sir Brian Hutton, will decide on his appeal against a 1975 conviction for the murder of Brian Shaw, a former soldier, three years earlier.

Either way, Mr Hill will not be returned to jail. The authorities have decided that having spent 15 years in jail before being cleared of the Guildford bombings, his life sentence has been spent.

But if he wins the appeal he might be paid £500,000 for his years behind bars. The case has aroused much interest in America since Mr Hill's marriage to Courtney Kennedy, daughter of the murdered American Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

Hospital wins export award

By DEREK HARRIS

GREAT Ormond Street Hospital has won a Queen's Award for export achievement thanks to its thousands of private patients from overseas.

Last year the children's hospital in Bloomsbury, London, earned nearly £5 million from its 34-bed private patients unit.

The hospital's reputation as one of the world's top centres for children's treatment brought patients from as far afield as Australia, Russia, the United States, South Africa, Chile and Sri Lanka.

It is believed that the only other Queen's Award presented to a hospital was for technology achievement. The private patients unit,

which was set up in the late 1930s, last year treated 2,093 children from nearly 60 countries. More than half were from Middle East countries including the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan and Qatar. Twelve per cent were from Greece and Cyprus.

Many of the children are sponsored by their governments' health programmes, and most of them have serious medical problems.

The hospital has the widest range of paediatric specialties and expertise in Britain, and its treatment range runs from cardiac surgery to cancerous conditions and rare metabolic disorders.

The unit's earnings last

year were nearly 7 per cent of the total revenue of the hospital, which is an NHS trust, and helped to pay for its NHS treatment.

The award delighted Stuart Pendlebury, the private patients manager, who said: "It recognises the work of our doctors and nurses and all our other staff in treating severely ill children from across the world, with the aim of contributing to improving children's health internationally."

"We look forward to continuing this work and to improving the facilities for patients and their families."

Awards list, pages 20, 22, 23
Pennington, page 27
City Diary, page 29

Golfer 'warned to watch player'

By A STAFF REPORTER

AN AMATEUR golfer told a libel jury yesterday how he was warned at an early stage to keep an eye on a fellow player he later accused of cheating.

Graham Rusk, an insurance broker, was the second of two players to make allegations of cheating against John Buckingham after a tournament at Sherwood Forest golf club near Worksop, Nottinghamshire.

Mr Buckingham, 57, of Elmdon, Derbyshire, is suing Mr Rusk and Reginald Dove for libel after they claimed he moved his ball and dropped a ball down his trouser-leg during the Sherwood Open in 1990. He began legal proceedings against the pair after the committee at his former club cleared him of the cheating allegations.

Mr Rusk, of Kirkby-in-Ashfield, told a jury at Nottingham County Court he did not know Mr Buckingham very well when he joined the club in 1988. Referring to his first match against Mr Buckingham, he said: "Prior to the game, two people approached me and told me to watch Mr Buckingham on the course, especially if he went into the rough or the trees. I was still a relatively new member at Sherwood Forest, and it was quite an unusual thing to say."

"The only other time I recall playing with him was in 1990, along with Mr Dove. On the 7th hole there was an incident where myself and Mr Dove were suspicious of his behaviour in the bunker."

Before Mr Buckingham played his shot from the bunker he bent down twice and appeared to motion towards his ball, although we

could not see his ball or his hands. Our suspicions were that he was moving his ball to try to improve his lie and get a better shot."

Mr Rusk said that as their match reached the green Mr Buckingham marked his ball to allow him to take his shot. "Mr Buckingham went to replace his ball, and myself and Mr Dove were stood quite close. We saw him replace his ball a couple of inches to the right of his marker."

"Mr Dove challenged him, saying something like 'There's no need to do that', and Mr Buckingham denied it, but moved his ball back."

"My reaction was, if anyone had accused me of cheating I would have been grief-stricken. I would have been very upset and conceded the hole, whether I had cheated or not. Mr Buckingham walked away as if nothing had happened. He clearly placed his ball in the wrong position."

He said if he was prompted to report Mr Buckingham's alleged misconduct after hearing from Mr Dove that he also witnessed incidents during the Sherwood Open competition in August that year.

"In private conversation, Mr Dove said he had been agonising over whether to put in a complaint about Mr Buckingham. He had written a letter to the club secretary."

"I asked if he had included the incident at the 7th hole, and he said he had overlooked it. I felt that, as there was more than one incident of Mr Buckingham cheating, it was my duty to go and talk to the club secretary, and I went straight away," Mr Rusk said.

The hearing continues.

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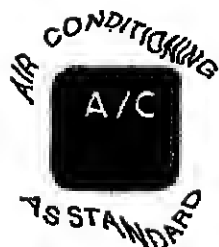
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Fears for humans grow as cats die of 'mad cow' disease

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 50 domestic cats have died from a feline version of "mad cow" disease over the past four years, fuelling fears that the fatal condition can pass between species, and by implication to humans, more easily than had been thought. Forty-eight cases of FSE (feline spongiform encephalopathy) have been reported at a steady rate of about one a month since the first diagnosis in May, 1990, according to the Agriculture Ministry. Contaminated pet food - is considered the most probable cause of infection. There are seven million cats in Britain. "We think pet food containing the remains of cattle with BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy) is the most likely means by which the disease was transmitted," a ministry spokesman said. "But the number of feline spongiform encephalopathy cases is so small that it is impossible to draw any firm conclusion." Richard Lacey, professor of microbiology at Leeds University, who has been a prominent critic of the Government's handling of the "mad cow" epidemic, said the susceptibility of cats to cross-infection from BSE, if true, was "bad news for humans." He said: "We know from work done by American scientists that Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) - spongiform encephalopathy in humans - can be transmitted in laboratory experiments to cats. This suggests that BSE and CJD

have a similar host range and increases the likelihood that BSE could infect humans." Whatever the cause of feline spongiform encephalopathy, scientists are agreed that it poses no threat to cat owners unless they take it upon themselves to eat their pets. The animals' blood and saliva cannot transmit the disease as these tissues do not become infected. Feline spongiform encephalopathy has also occurred in a puma and three cheetahs reared in British zoos. All the animals were fed uncooked cattle carcasses containing spinal cord tissue, one of the few organs outside the brain suspected of harbouring the agent that causes BSE. It is presumed the carcasses were infected with BSE. German health officials have cited the deaths of domestic cats and zoo animals as justification for a ban on imports of British beef, which Bonn has threatened to impose despite gaining no support for such a move from the European Commission or any other EU member state. A report last December by the Federal Health Agency in Berlin said: "In view of the fact that the infective agent of BSE can pass between these two families of animals [cattle and cats], it must be assumed that under suitable conditions transmission of the disease to primates, including human beings, which are equally remote from cattle, may be possible." Many scientists question any link between cases of FSE and BSE-infected feed. John Bower, a former president of the British Veterinary Association and a specialist in small animals, said: "In my view, it is far more likely that FSE has always been around as a very rare condition, like CJD in humans, but only came to light when we started looking for it because of BSE. "No dogs have ever contracted the disease though they too must have eaten infected feed," Mr Bower said. The use of brain, spinal cord and other potentially infected tissue from sheep and cattle in pet food has been banned since September, 1990. So no pets should have been exposed to infected feed for at least three and half years. More than 125,000 British cattle have died from BSE since 1986, though the number of cases reported in the first 16 weeks of this year was 20 per cent down on the same period of 1993. A letter in *The Lancet* earlier this month from a team of European scientists monitoring the incidence of CJD in humans said no increase that could be attributable to BSE had yet been detected. However, the letter went on to say: "It will be many years before any such change can be excluded because of the potentially long incubation periods in the spongiform encephalopathies."



John MacGregor at the launch of the campaign for safer driving yesterday. Speeding killed 1,200 people last year

By TIM JONES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

Stark message on speeding

A TELEVISION advertisement so harrowing it can be shown only after 9pm is at the forefront of a campaign to stop motorists speeding. John MacGregor, the Transport Secretary, said the post-9pm ruling had been made by the Independent Television Commission. He made no apologies for the advertisement. "It is pretty stark, and that is deliberate. We want to get the message across that speeding kills." The advertise-

ment, which was shown for the first time last night, depicts a smiling young girl being hit and thrown over the bonnet of a speeding car after stepping off a pavement. The camera closes in to show her head thudding against the road surface as a horrified shopper looks on. As the driver, protesting his innocence, gets out of the car, the dead girl "comes out" of her body and looks down on her corpse. Through her

tears, she screams at the driver: "You killed me. You were going too fast. If you couldn't stop you were going too fast." The advertisement, which will run until May 4, is part of a new £15 million campaign to make drivers aware of the dangers of driving too fast. Last year, speeding killed 1,200 people. Mr MacGregor said: "We know that reducing speed saves lives. We

know that the case for reducing speed is clear." He said that drivers had to understand that only 7 per cent of all road deaths happened on roads with the maximum 70mph speed limit. "They must learn to match their speed to circumstances, not just keep within the speed limits. A dangerous speed is much slower than they think." Although measures such as speed cameras and the introduction of 20mph zones had been successful, the most important task was to change drivers' attitudes.

Families demand longer jail terms

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

FAMILIES seeking tougher sentences for criminals delivered a petition with 10,000 signatures to 10 Downing Street yesterday. They urged John Major to take action to ensure that the punishment fitted the crime and that more thought was given to the victims of rape, assault and robberies. Dian Lloyd founded Justice for Victims after the killer of her son was given a 21-month sentence. Stephen Lloyd, 24, who had two children, died from head injuries after he was hit outside a snooker hall. Jason Evans, a former professional boxer, was initially charged with murder but his plea of guilty to manslaughter was accepted at Cardiff Crown Court. He is due to be released from prison next month. Mrs Lloyd, 47, from Cefn Hengoed, West Glamorgan, said: "I felt devastated at the outcome. He got 21 months for taking a life. That is not justice

Thieves held in shop trap

Fifty people were arrested yesterday after undercover police set up a second-hand shop in northeast London. Three-quarters of the goods brought into the shop in Walthamstow were found to be stolen. An estimated £500,000 worth of goods were recovered. Those arrested are believed to be the most prolific thieves and fences. Hundreds more have been identified as handlers of stolen property.

Mixer fall

Michael Mordue, 41, of Consett, Co Durham, suffered serious injuries after falling into a machine that mixes ingredients for Philias Fogg snacks. His hand was almost severed and a cut-out device stopped the machine when the blades were an inch from his neck.

Game girl

Kathryn Darby, 16, a pupil at King's College, Taunton, could be taking charge of senior rugby matches next season after passing her senior referee's examinations.

Sailings rise

Hoverspeed is to double its hovercraft journeys from Dover to Calais to 12 a day this summer. SeaCar will increase daily catamaran sailings from Folkestone to Boulogne to six.

Pain barrier

Andy Bryant, 36, from Surrey, who claims that positive thought can kill pain, intends to have a vasectomy without anaesthetic at a clinic in London tomorrow.

Skater's service

A cremation service was held at Leamington Spa for John Curry, the former Olympic ice-skating champion, who died last week, aged 44.

Jobs to go

The Moulins Swan factory in Birmingham, which makes electric kettles, is to close, with the loss of 333 jobs.

Accidents blamed on tired workers

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

LACK of sleep is an under-recognised health hazard which shortens lives, damages relationships and has contributed to some of the world's worst accidents, medical experts said yesterday.

The Chernobyl explosion, the Challenger space shuttle disaster and the Exxon Valdez oil spill were all blamed on workers who dozed off or were too tired to do their jobs properly. An American study concluded that 90 per cent of industrial accidents and 200,000 car accidents a year were linked with lack of sleep.

Professor Colin Shapiro, head of psychiatry at the University of Toronto, said five separate studies had shown that people who consistently slept for short or long periods - less than six hours or more than nine hours a night - had shorter lifespans than those who slept seven or eight hours. "People with sleep disorders often rate their quality of life as lower than those with chronic conditions such as arthritis and multiple sclerosis," he said.

About 12 million adult Britons claim to suffer from insomnia, half the population snores and one in 12 suffers from sleep apnoea, a condition that leads to constant waking.

Professor Shapiro, who was launching a help service for doctors and patients, said most GPs had little training in sleep medicine. The service, funded by the Rhône-Poulenc Rorer drug company, includes a sleep diary for patients and questions about exercise and drinking.

Professor Shapiro, editor of the *British Medical Journal's* guide to sleep disorders, said that the most common complaint was of shallow sleep. "Deep sleep is much more important to most people than the length of sleep. Given the choice, most would opt for five hours' deep sleep rather than eight hours of shallow sleep."

Dr Elizabeth Scott, a GP in Edinburgh who has compiled tapes of classical music for insomniacs, said that many patients who had long and expensive treatment for a variety of illnesses found their symptoms improved with a correction of their sleep patterns. She said that she compiled the tapes, based on selections whose tempo most closely resembles the brain-wave pattern during sleep, because of demand from patients. "I had little idea how to deal with sleep problems and little remedy other than to reach for the prescription pad."



Hawking: launched appeal by charity

Hawking's £3.4m plea for disabled

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

PROFESSOR Stephen Hawking yesterday launched an appeal for £3.4 million to help disabled people to escape "from a lifetime of solitary confinement".

New technology was creating great opportunities to help disabled people, but the best ways had to be found for applying it, he said. Professor Hawking, who suffers from motor neurone disease and speaks through a computer-controlled voice synthesiser, was launching an appeal by the charity Aspire to endow a chair in disability and technology at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in Stanmore, northwest London. "The scope is enormous," Professor Hawking said. "There are over six million disabled people in this country, some very disabled like me, and a large proportion of these are people who are first and disabled second. They should not be condemned to a lifetime sentence of solitary confinement without the power to move themselves or communicate with the outside world."

Aspire (the Appeal for the Professor of Disability and Technology) aims to endow a chair in perpetuity, working from University College London's Institute of Orthopaedics. The first £1 million has been given by the Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust, and it is hoped a professor will be appointed in September.

'Teach the Bard to five-year-olds'

By A STAFF REPORTER

CHILDREN as young as five should be taught Shakespeare at school, John Patten, the Education Secretary, was told yesterday.

At present, Shakespeare is not introduced to pupils until they enter secondary school at the age of 11. But the Royal Society of Arts says children of all abilities from 5 to 18 can benefit from studying him.

A report of a two-year project set up by the RSA at 17 primary and secondary schools in Leicestershire has been sent to Mr Patten. Penny Egan, of the RSA, said: "When children get to secondary school and find that Shakespeare is in the national curriculum and is tested, it becomes a bogey for them."

"By involving primary schools, Shakespeare will be a friend and not something to be afraid of." The RSA now hopes to monitor the progress of those primary pupils who took part in the project as they study Shakespeare at secondary school. A teachers' handbook is also being produced.

"We very much hope that Mr Patten, local education authorities, school governors and head teachers will take notice," Ms Egan said. The RSA report says the acting of Shakespearean pieces by pupils is a means of exploring text and is a valid teaching approach. Seeing professional actors perform Shakespeare could also inspire curiosity and further study. The report adds that non-

specialist teachers had the necessary skill to make Shakespeare accessible to all their pupils but often lacked confidence.

More than 300 pupils aged six to ten who took part in the project watched a professional production of *Macbeth*. Here are some of their responses: "People think Shakespeare is posh and serious, but when we did it, it was fun" - John, 9.

"It was a bit scary... but I liked it better than *Neighbours*... well... just as much" - Jennifer, 10. "Personally, I like a lot of blood and guts... and I recommend this for anyone a bit like me, but if you don't I say stay as far away as you can!" - Richard, 10.

"I didn't know what they were saying in *Macbeth* to start with 'cos they talked this funny way, but I got used to it and then it was all right most of the time" - Jane, 7.

A teacher said: "I still feel it is highly inappropriate to expect children of primary age to read through the text 'cold' to get to know the story. However, I am determined to look for interesting ways of using the plots and the language of his works."

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Patten: will study report by RSA

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Fischer foiled

Bobby Fischer's new rating on the Professional Chess Association ranking list, the first official rating for Fischer to be published for almost two decades, will be a modest 2595. I am reliably informed. That total will not even put him in the world's top 20 and compares most unfavourably with the projected 2810 for Kasparov.

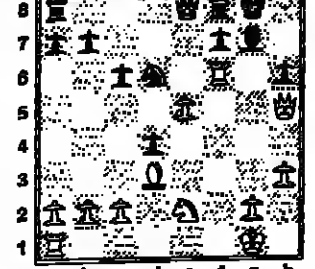
The full official PCA figures will be released next week. Although their method of calculation differs considerably from the Fide (International Chess Federation) ranking list, the PCA has standardised the figures for ease of comparison, so that the established parameters for chess strength remain valid.

To refresh readers' memories, 2805 is the record ranking, only ever achieved by Kasparov. Bobby Fischer at his peak was 2785, while a world championship candidate would be 2700+. A grandmaster would be 2500+, an international master 2400+ and a good club player 2000.

1994 is the thirtieth anniversary of Fischer's 100 per cent score in the 1964 US Championship, the highest ranked tournament performance ever recorded. His new PCA rating, based solely on his match victory against Spassky in 1992, will not be a welcome anniversary present for him. As a homage to Fischer, here is one of his most brilliant games from that competition 30 years ago.

White: Bobby Fischer	Black: Pal Benko
US Championship 1964	
1 e4	g6
2 d4	Bg7
3 Nc3	0-0
4 f4	Nf6
5 Nf3	O-O
6 Be3	Bg4
7 h3	Bx3
8 Qx3	Nc6
9 Be3	e5
10 dxe5	dxe5
11 f5	g5
12 Qe5	Nd4
13 Qf2	Nx6
14 O-O	Nx6
15 Qg3	Kx6
16 Qg4	0-0
17 Ch5	Ce8
18 Bxd4	exd4
19 Rf6	Kg6
20 e5	h6
21 Ne2	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



If 21... Bxf6 22 Qxh6 forces mate.

Moscow speed chess

In the first round, Garry Kasparov (Russia) has been drawn against Jan Timman (Holland). Nigel Short plays Jaan Ehvest (Estonia) while Michael Adams is pitted against the veteran Soviet defender Viktor Korchnoi (now Switzerland).

Winning Move, page 48

Rush to beat deadline for free Hoover flights

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THOUSANDS of Hoover customers who applied for the free-flights promotion have just nine days to make their travel arrangements before the offer expires.

The company announced yesterday that the promotion had cost it nearly £48 million. About 400,000 people are still waiting for their free tickets, even though those who bought appliances in November and December 1992 must arrange their flights by the end of this month. For those who made their purchases in January 1993, the deadline is the end of June.

Members of a protest group are flying to the United States today for

talks with the manufacturer's parent company. The three-strong delegation from the Hoover Holiday Pressure Group hopes to meet Leonard Hadley, chairman of Maytag Corporation.

They will ask Maytag to organise vouchers for customers to spend at travel agents in place of the air tickets that they have never received. The vouchers would be worth the price of a low-season charter flight to the US.

The group will also be asking Mr Hadley to extend the redemption period, and has threatened to sue Hoover if more free flights have not been provided by June. Harry Cichy, co-ordinator of the 4,000-strong pressure group, said: "We are giving Hoover one last chance. Our lawyers

have cases that are ready to go." Mr Cichy said ten cases had already been prepared for the High Court in London. "We think this can be settled without either side getting involved in enormous legal costs, but if it is not then it will go on and on."

Also on the ten-day trip will be Sandy Jack, 71, chairman of the pressure group, and Charles Plant, a lawyer. Mr Jack, of Methil, Fife, helped to launch the group after losing a claim for £380 compensation from Hoover at Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court. He claimed that two judges and several lawyers had joined the campaign.

Hoover says that nearly 200,000 customers have taken flights so far.

Everyone entitled to tickets would be offered flights before the end of this month. "The majority of people purchased products at the end of 1992 and a mailshot will give details of flights by the end of April."

Hoover's European president, William Foost, and two other senior managers lost their jobs because of the promotion, which offered two free flights with every Hoover appliance costing more than £100.

In January, trading standards officers in Mid Glamorgan dashed customers' hopes of an early settlement by saying that they believed the company had kept it to its contract.

Travel, pages 34, 35

Tories face backlash in Scotland

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tories could lose 20 per cent of their seats and fall to fourth place in the Scottish regional elections in a dramatic backlash against local government reorganisation, VAT on fuel and the threatened changes in Scottish water management.

Although no clear picture has yet emerged from the nine regions and three district councils up for election, the Tories appear likely to lose about ten of their 52 seats. The Liberal Democrats could add ten to their 40 seats and Labour could gain an extra ten on top of its 230. The SNP, though well organised, is not expected to do well and could have difficulty keeping its 42 seats. Labour now has about half the regional seats and about 40 per cent of the popular vote.

Most parties claim they are fielding more candidates this year in an attempt to increase their share of the vote, a ploy

successfully pulled off by the Tories last year. Labour, which has traditionally contested urban areas in Scotland, is putting up five candidates in the Western Isles, one of the three district councils up for re-election.

This marks the first time that a political party has fielded a candidate in an area dominated by independent councillors. In the Highland region, 34 of the 52 councillors are independent. David Stewart, a district councillor in Inverness and chairman of the Highland region Labour party, said: "We are putting up as many people as possible in rural seats. There are no no-go areas."

Mr Stewart argues that Scottish local government is becoming increasingly politicised, as can be seen from the influx into urban areas of extremist groups such as Scottish Militant and the SNP splinter groups Flame and Settlers Watch, whose aim is



John Cameron, the Liberal Democrat candidate, canvassing yesterday in the hills around Pitlochry

to banish the English from Scotland.

Next month's elections are unusual in that all 453 councillors for the nine Scottish regions will be in their posts for only two years. In 1996 all nine regions and most districts will be abolished and replaced with 30 single-tier authorities. The district councils for the Western Isles, Shetland and Orkney will survive.

The temporary nature of most of the posts has given rise to a state of apathy

among many candidates and voters. Many able district councillors have decided not to fight for the regions but are holding out for the more powerful posts to be contested next year.

In Pitlochry, Perthshire, a traditional Tory area, the party was unable to find a candidate to stand. In Banchory-Ternan, a rural area west of Aberdeen, Ben Strachan, a 69-year-old retired diplomat, has been put up as the Liberal Democrat candidate because, he says,

more ambitious youngsters were not interested.

Major Strachan has a good chance as the Tory vote in a seat regarded as Conservative stronghold, could be split. Norma Makin, chairwoman of the local community council, has encouraged Tory chiefs by deciding to stand as an independent councillor after being turned down for the Tory candidacy, which has gone to Denis Christie, a lawyer.

Labour is expected to dominate the regional elections in Central, Lothian, Fife and

Strathclyde, but the important battlegrounds are likely to be in Tayside and Grampian, where Labour is the main party but does not hold overall control. The SNP and the Liberal Democrats could gain seats in Grampian, while the Tories may have difficulty holding on.

However, they have confounded recent trends by winning three by-elections in the region. Labour has 16 seats, the Tories 13, the Liberals 10 and the SNP 14 on Grampian regional council.

The seat where no Conservative wanted to stand

JOHN Cameron is a canny political dresser. Sporting a yellow tie, blue shirt and blue trousers, the Liberal Democrat candidate for Pitlochry, Aberfeldy and Rannoch is out to woo Tories in the run-up to the Scottish regional council elections on May 5 (Jill Sherman writes).

Earlier this month Mr Cameron was expecting to come a poor third in a three-horse race with the Tories and the Scottish Nationalist Party for a seat on Tayside Regional Council. But last week the Conservatives amazed everyone by failing to put up a candidate, and the battle is now on between Mr Cameron and the SNP candidate, John Culliven.

The regional seat falls within the traditional Tory heartland of rural Scotland. Bill Walker, the local MP, is one of only 11 Tory MPs in Scotland. The electorate of 7,000 includes a significant proportion of wealthy landowners — such as the Duke of Atholl — and middle-class pensioners, driven north by cheaper housing and the prospect of peace and quiet.

Unemployment is low, due to a flourishing tourist industry based at Pitlochry, a charming Victorian village in the Perthshire Highlands.

Four years ago the SNP pulled off a surprise win on the back of a vigorous campaign against the poll tax and

took the seat from the Tories by 45 votes. The upshot of that gain, and four years of disillusionment with a Conservative Government, is that the local Tories failed to persuade a candidate to stand.

Sandy Charleson, a shopkeeper, resigned as vice-president of the local Tories shortly after his wife's clothing business folded and he was made redundant. "I could not go out and canvass in all conscience for the Conservative Party," he said. "They have made such a mess of things. The party that promised rewards for small businesses has not delivered. I will never vote Tory again."

Mr Cameron, who has returned to the house of one of his ancestors, high up in the Grampians, hopes to gain a significant proportion of the Tory vote. For eight years he was a board member of London Transport and is promising that he will get the trains to synchronise with local buses and will ensure that roads are regularly gritted and repaired.

Mr Culliven is confident of securing the youth vote and of scooping up Labour supporters, who have never fielded a candidate in Pitlochry. The SNP has organised well and is exploiting the influx of English absentee landlords and the current apathy with politics south of the border.

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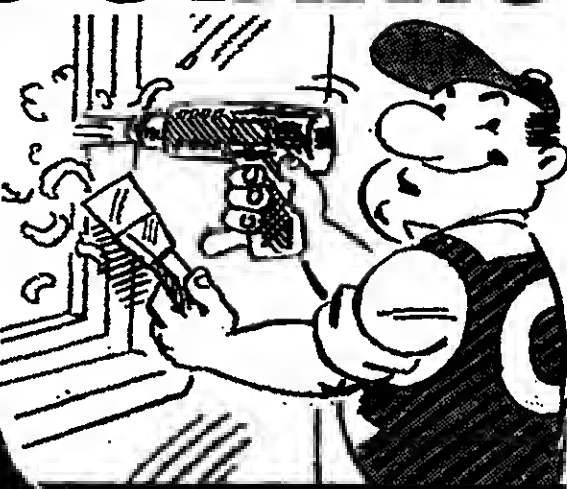
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Cabinet pair lead field to replace Fowler in reshuffle

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

DAVID Hunt and Gillian Shephard have emerged as the leading candidates to replace Sir Norman Fowler as Conservative Party chairman in the reshuffle expected in the weeks after the European parliamentary elections.

The Prime Minister is believed to have decided that the chairman in the second half of the Parliament should be of Cabinet rank. One idea being actively canvassed at Westminster is that he or she should work in tandem with Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, the former deputy chairman, who would head a sub-thumping campaigning effort.

Because the new chairman will take charge of the Tory machine in the run-up to the next general election, the appointment is one of the most vital that Mr Major will have to make in his reshuffle. Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, and Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, have been suggested as runners, but Mr Heseltine is thought not to want the job and Mrs Bottomley looks likely to stay at health.

Mr Hunt, the Employment Secretary, and Mrs Shephard, the Agriculture Minister, have

strong support among MPs. They are among the Cabinet ministers closest to Mr Major.

Reshuffle fever is gripping Tory MPs. But suggestions yesterday that Mr Major might be tempted to call back to the Cabinet the veterans Lord Howe of Aberavon and Lord Walker of Worcester were dismissed as fantastic and hilarious by senior party sources. The deputy chairman, Gerry Malone, said it was pre-summer madness.

Even so, Mr Major is coming under pressure from senior MPs to carry out an extensive reshuffle and to strengthen his political machine at No 10, possibly by appointing a minister as his chief of staff. Brian Mawhinney, the health minister, is the most widely canvassed name.

Stephen Dorrell, the Treasury financial secretary, Jonathan Aitken, the defence minister, and Roger Freeman, the transport minister, could be moved into the Cabinet.

The party tried to calm reshuffle excitement. Sir Norman told a press conference: "We're going to have a story after story about this over the next months. We've got elections to fight and we don't intend to speculate."

Hurd backs ban on spy memoirs

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

DOUGLAS Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday spelled out the Government's continuing commitment to stopping former members of the security and intelligence services from publishing their memoirs without authorisation. Mr Hurd said that no former member of the services "need be under any doubt about his obligations".

The reminder of the policy of strict confidentiality comes as the Government prepares for the passing of the Intelligence Services Bill. Authorisation for disclosing information covered by the Official Secrets Act would be given only in exceptional circumstances, Mr Hurd said in a Commons written answer. The need to protect sensitive information was "fully recognised" in the Bill.

Permission to disclose information would be rare where it concerned events that happened fewer than 30 years ago. Older material might cause less objection.

In Parliament

Commons (230): Questions: Home Office: Prime Minister. Debate on Opposition motion on transport.

Lords (5): Social Security (Incapacity for Work) Bill, conclusion of committee.

Smith gives warning on poll pacts

By OUR POLITICAL STAFF

JOHN Smith accused the Tories last night of standing down deliberately in several London seats to give the Liberal Democrats a free run at beating Labour in the local elections.

The Labour Leader told a rally in London that the Tories had made several electoral pacts with the Liberal Democrats in an attempt to prevent a landslide victory for Labour in the capital. Recent polling has shown that the Tories could lose all but four of the 13 councils they control and that Labour is likely to win back most of the seats it lost to the Conservatives in 1990.

Mr Smith claimed that the Tories were standing down in Barking, Haringey, Waltham Forest and Tower Hamlets to boost the Liberal Democrat vote. "People in London should know that if they vote Liberal they may well be supporting John Major by the back door," he said.

The Liberal Democrats hit back with a list of district councils where the Conservatives were working with Labour. The Tories insisted last night that there were no official pacts with the Liberal Democrats and that no informal ones would be endorsed by the party centrally. However, they admitted that "anti-left wing" candidates would be encouraged in seats the Tories were not contesting.

'We feel so helpless in the face of this great tragedy for people ... not a family has escaped death'

Unrelenting Serb assault kills ten in Gorazde hospital

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SERB gunners continued to shell Gorazde yesterday, killing patients in a hospital and refugees sheltering in a flat nearby, while Nato debated whether to increase air strikes as part of a more militant role in defence of UN-declared "safe areas".

Three rockets struck the hospital in the besieged Muslim town, killing ten patients and wounding 15.

Earlier, eight refugees had been killed when a shell smashed into a building opposite the hospital, which is close to Serb lines on the right bank of the River Drina. United Nations sources said ten other refugees had been wounded and the attack had prevented them being moved for treatment.

The shelling of the refugee centre was one among many in the town as yet another ceasefire agreement, dictated by the Serbs to the UN, came and went unheeded.

UN and international relief workers in Gorazde said they were unable to provide shelter for many of the residents, most of them from villages

which had fallen in the three-week-old Serb offensive.

On Tuesday, hospital officials reported that 43 people had been killed and 112 wounded in Gorazde. Many might have been saved, but medical personnel had been fired on by Serb gunners.

"We feel so helpless in the face of this great tragedy for the people of Gorazde," said Mary McLoughlin, a UN doctor in the town, in a radio-telex message. "Not a family has escaped death."

The relief workers said that residents had to brave sniper fire just to collect water. Running water, electricity, gas and telephone services were cut off by besieging Serb forces two years ago.

A convoy of UN troops and armoured vehicles, which was supposed to have left for the town several days ago, was again delayed yesterday when a French officer said his government had ordered French troops — making up about two-thirds of the convoy — not to leave Sarajevo for Gorazde. Paris apparently did not want French troops

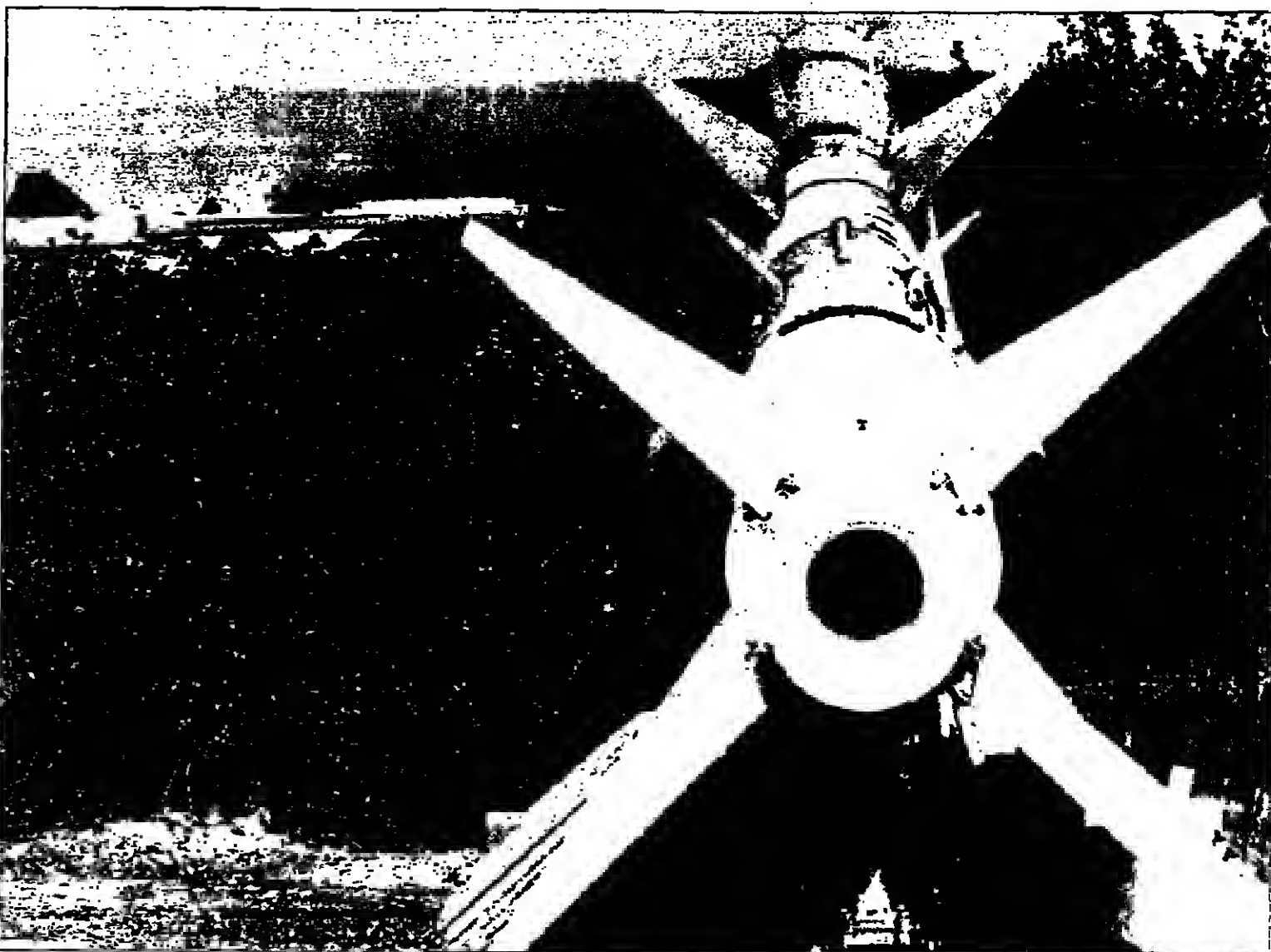
sent to Gorazde unless British troops were also deployed.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the UN commander in Bosnia, had originally wanted to send mostly British troops to Gorazde, but the Serbs blocked the plan, objecting to British tracked vehicles and demanding the use of only wheeled vehicles.

The French did not raise the issue with General Rose himself but apparently gave the order directly to a lower ranking French general. Since General Rose assumed command in Bosnia, French officials have complained privately of their influence being diminished.

□ **Nicosia:** Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's spiritual leader, told the country's forces yesterday to prepare to defend Muslims in Bosnia against Serb attacks. The report, by the Iranian news agency Irna, did not say if the UN had given permission for Iran to send troops or if there were diplomatic efforts under way to that end. (Reuters)

Air strikes plan, page 1



Bosnian Serb surface-to-air missiles near the northern town of Banja Luka. Serb air defences are on constant alert after last week's Nato raids

Muslims await renewed onslaught against towns in eastern Bosnia

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT



The Bosnian Serb military chief General Mladic watching his army advance in eastern Bosnia

THE fate of the one million people, mostly Muslims, living in the six United Nations "safe areas" is now hanging in the balance, with Serb guns on the one side and Nato, steeling itself for action, on the other.

Whatever decision Nato takes over air strikes to protect the six towns — Sarajevo, Gorazde, Srebrenica, Zepa, Tuzla and Bihać — the Serbs' relentless shelling of Gorazde has reawakened fears in the other safe areas, including Sarajevo, that the same treatment will be meted out to them. The Serbs are inflicting on Gorazde what they have done to a greater or

lesser extent to dozens of towns during the war in Bosnia. Their strategy has been to shell a population centre in a concentrated attack from a distance for a long period, squeezing the people into a smaller area until the terror of the daily attacks forces them to leave their homes.

That strategy seemed to be working yesterday for the Serbs in Gorazde from where an appeal was made for the evacuation of women, children and the elderly.

Srebrenica has already suffered the Gorazde treatment and was effectively demilitarised last year with the Mus-

lim defenders handing over their heavy weapons as part of an agreement with the Serbs to stop them overrunning the town.

In the past few days there has been a noticeable increase in Serb military activity around the Srebrenica pocket, aimed at the UN troops based there. A report from a UN military observer in Srebrenica said the people were now afraid they would soon suffer the same fate as Gorazde. In the past 24 hours, there have been 136 detonations in the area, as well as heavy machinegun and small arms fire. The Muslim forces are considering building up



a refugee ghetto. The last UN aid convoy was on April 9 but so far there are no food shortages because there are many farms in the area.

In Zepa, a small Muslim enclave of 10,000 residents, a Ukrainian company of about 150 men patrols the safe area. Although the surrounding Serbs have not shelled the town recently, there have been mine explosions and light machinegun fire.

Tuzla is a key Muslim stronghold, with about 200,000 people living in the city and more than double that number in the surrounding area. It is not clear where the boundary for the Tuzla safe area begins, which will become a key factor if Nato

agrees to authorise the use of air strikes to protect the city.

The Serbs have guns on a hill to the northeast of Tuzla airport that continue to fire shells intermittently on to the air base. Shells have also landed in the city. The Tuzla region is becoming increasingly vulnerable to Serb aggression.

A Nordic battalion of about 790 UN troops is based at Tuzla airport. It is also the headquarters of the UN Bosnian command's sector northeast.

In Bihać, the sixth of the safe areas, there are about 200,000 people in the town and surrounding area. Bihać comes under only occasional fire from the Serbs.

Europe's resentful Parliament attempts to flex its muscles

FROM JAMES LANDALE IN STRASBOURG AND GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

MAKING the most of its penultimate session before the European elections in June, the European Parliament threatened yesterday not only to block European Union enlargement but also for the first time to reject a new law.

Parliamentary assent is required under the Treaty of Rome before the EU can be enlarged to include Sweden, Norway, Finland and Austria. Some MEPs are threatening to vote against because of concessions to Britain during last month's dispute over voting rights. If the Parliament fails to muster an absolute majority of 260 votes in favour of enlargement next month, the process will be delayed until the autumn.

That would upset a tight timetable of referendums and parliamentary votes in the four candidate countries which hope to join the EU next January 1. Carl Bildt and Gro

■ Euro-MPs, tired of being ignored, came close, for the first time in the Parliament's history, to throwing out a new law. They still might delay enlargement of the Union

Harlem Brundtland, the Swedish and Norwegian Prime Ministers, Poul Solman, the Finnish Foreign Trade Minister, and Erhard Busch, the Austrian Vice-Chancellor, all came to Strasbourg this week to persuade deputies to vote in favour. Popular support in their four countries for joining the EU is lukewarm: if the referendums were held today, only Finland would be clearly in favour.

The best estimates are that 230 MEPs will vote in favour of enlargement on Wednesday week, about 30 votes short. Many MEPs busy canvassing votes for re-election, will not turn up; others will not care as they are standing down.

MEPs came close yesterday to using new powers granted by the Maastricht Treaty to

reject legislation permanently. MEPs were ready to throw out a proposal from the European Commission to ban the sale and manufacture of motorcycles with engines bigger than 100 bhp on safety grounds.

The Parliament dismisses the Commission's argument that high-performance motorcycles are dangerous. High-performance bikes make up a fifth of the motorcycle market, which is already under pressure from Japanese imports. Triumph, Britain's only mass producer of motorcycles, would have been harmed by a ban, with five of its eight models over the 100 bhp limit.

A total of 252 MEPs voted to "close the legislative procedure", only eight short of the absolute majority of 260 needed. Peter Beazley, Conserva-

tive MEP for Bedfordshire South, said: "This started as an issue about the power of bikes. It turned into an issue about the power of the Parliament."

Since the Parliament's creation, MEPs have lamented their lack of power. Until the Maastricht Treaty, national governments never gave them the leverage they craved. Despite the European election in June, the Parliament still falls short of a pivotal role. MEPs gaze enviously at the clout of congressmen in America and many British MEPs of both parties wallow in self-pity at the indifference of the media.

Maastricht gave the Parliament more opportunities to disrupt EU business but few means to seize the imagination of Europe's voters, who see that the Union decision-making system still largely depends on national governments. Solman enquired into small obsessions such as unidentified flying objects, also continuing to give the Parliament a bad name.

Pressure grows for new Vichy trial

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

THE conviction of Paul Touvier, the Second World War militia officer, for crimes against humanity, brought pressure yesterday on a reluctant French state to expedite the trial of Maurice Papon, a more senior figure in the Vichy regime, who faces similar charges.

The life sentence passed by the Versailles court against Touvier was hailed by Jewish groups and historians as vindication of a long struggle to put on judicial record the complicity of French collaborators in Nazi genocide. "I am proud of the Republic, of the Church and of the community have been saved," said Joseph Sitruk, the Grand Rabbi of France. He was voicing widespread relief that after half a century of collective amnesia and legal delays, France had for the first time convicted a wartime official for persecuting Jews, a policy which led to the death of about 75,000, including 12,000 children.

Touvier, 79, was being held at a detention centre pending an appeal. If an appeal is rejected, he will be moved



Papon, allegedly deported 1,700 Jews to death camps

to a high security prison where his age and failing health will probably qualify him for special treatment, officials said.

The activists whose 20 years of efforts brought Touvier to trial, yesterday urged the authorities to put an end

to a decade of delays and start proceedings against M. Papon, 84, who is alleged to have been responsible for deporting to death camps about 1,700 Jews when he served as a senior administrator in the Bordeaux area. There is a big contrast between the cases. Touvier was an opportunist, anti-Semitic thug in the hated pro-Nazi militia and spent the post-war years on the run from previous death sentences. M. Papon, however, was a mainstream civil servant who went on to high posts, including a stint as Budget Minister in the 1970s.

"The Touvier trial could not give us an answer on Vichy," said Gérard Boulanger, a lawyer and historian. "Only a Papon trial can do that." M. Boulanger is to appear in court in June to defend himself in a libel suit brought by M. Papon over a book he has written about him. Alain Jacobowitz, a lawyer representing the Lyons Jewish community, said: "Now that Touvier has been convicted, the time has come to try the Vichy leadership, the civil servants who had all the responsibility."


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Rumours grow of hidden agenda in Buthelezi deal

ALMOST with a single voice, South Africa has been celebrating its relief at the historic deal between Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Nelson Mandela which has belatedly brought the Inkatha Freedom Party into the election.

Disciples of Realpolitik on the hardline wings of both the ANC and the IFP will tell you this is a mere truce in a long-term struggle to the death which is bound to resume before long. But for the moment such voices are drowned by the sheer weight of those who see the deal as the best hope of lasting peace South Africa has known in a generation. The fact that the deal breaks all election deadline rules and that more than 22 million ballot papers will have to have IFP stickers affixed to them is hardly considered among the general rejoicing.

In fact, considerable mystery surrounds the deal. Although Chief Buthelezi has won new constitutional safeguards for the

South Africans rejoiced at Inkatha's decision to fight the election. But R.W. Johnson believes that the hardline wings of the IFP and ANC view the development as no better than a truce

role of the Zulu monarchy, many commentators believe he has settled on terms little different from those he was offered several weeks ago. Accordingly, speculation is rife about possible secret agreements underlying the public deal.

One report focuses upon a royal visit expected not long after the election to cement South African re-entry to the Commonwealth. The British, it is said, have agreed to arrange for the Queen and other European monarchs to be present at a coronation ceremony held to institutionalise the new position of the Zulu king. Such a ceremony would be greeted with enormous pride and delight by the many

Zulus who remain deeply conscious of the tragic collision between the forces of Queen Victoria and King Cetshwayo in 1879. Indeed, the rapprochement of the two royal houses would serve greatly to consolidate the political rapprochement between IFP and ANC.

Others point more mundanely to the very considerable strength now mustered by the South African Defence Force in Natal, whose force of tanks and armoured cars was quietly built up even before the emergency was declared there. With detention without trial and press censorship already in place in Natal, the scene is set for an utterly draconian post-election

crackdown. There is no doubt that many within the ANC wanted to use the SADF not to keep a neutral peace between the two sides, but as a partisan weapon to smash Chief Buthelezi's forces with the same brutal thoroughness President Mugabe deployed in Matabeleland after his "liberation" election in 1980. Certainly, local observers here in Natal feel that Chief Buthelezi was in effect negotiating with a gun to his head.

He now faces an election in just a week with an Inkatha electorate far from ready for such a contest. Voter education work has been all but impossible in IFP areas and the number of voters there who failed to acquire identity papers, spoil their ballots or abstain in confusion is likely to be high. Many Inkatha leaders believe electioneering is just a matter of getting the chiefs to tell their people how to vote. Undoubtedly the chiefs will be a big influence but even they will have too little time to make

their influence widely felt. For all that, Inkatha should do well enough to secure a Cabinet seat, or perhaps even an executive vice-presidency for Chief Buthelezi and partnership in a coalition government in Natal, and beyond that it can still look forward to international mediation on the question of federalism after the poll — a not inconsiderable set of chestnuts rescued from the fire.

Certainly, Inkatha's re-entry should be enough to create a keen race in Natal (where the last polls put the ANC at exactly 50 per cent) and probably sufficient to deprive the ANC of a two-thirds majority in the country as a whole.

Chief Buthelezi's decision will mean that the leader of the white right, General Constand Viljoen, will no longer be able to harvest the many Inkatha votes he hoped to gain. On the other hand Chief Buthelezi's decision will not only mean he has more allies in parliament but it has created a general

mood favourable to participation. Thus many previous right-wing abstainers may now be swept back in behind General Viljoen.

All of which points up yet further the magnanimity and statesmanship of Mr Mandela. He has in effect decided it was better to strengthen his opponents and sacrifice ANC seats to produce an inclusive deal and thus the hope of real national unity. Perhaps nothing was more important than the way he generously praised Chief Buthelezi for his role in the struggle against apartheid. To do this at a public press conference was to give Chief Buthelezi precisely the symbolic recognition he has always hungered for.

Whether the two men can translate their new-found amity to their supporters on the ground is a far larger question. At least now the attempt at peace-making can begin and South Africa looks forward, stunned by the sudden reappearance of hope.

Inkatha says ANC must rig poll to win in Natal

FROM SAM KILEY IN ULUNDI, KWAZULU/NATAL AND MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG	
SPORTS ORGANISATION FOR COLLECTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS AND EQUAL RIGHTS	SOCCER
THE KEEP IT STRAIGHT AND SIMPLE PARTY	KISS
WYTHEDSFONT - FREEDOM FRONT	VF-F
WOMEN'S RIGHTS PEACE PARTY	WRPP
WORKERS' LIST PARTY	WLP
AIMMOO PROGRESSIVE PARTY	ZPP
AFRICA MUSLIM PARTY	AMP
AFRICAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY	ACDP
AFRICAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT	ADM
AFRICAN MODERATES CONGRESS PARTY	AMCP
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS	ANC
DEMOCRATIC PARTY - DEMOCRATISE PARTY	DP
DEMOCRATISE PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA	DPSA
FEDERAL PARTY	FP
LUSO - SOUTH AFRICAN PARTY	LUSAP
MINORITY FRONT	MF
NATIONAL PARTY - NATIONALE PARTY	NP

A ballot paper for the South African election before stickers for the Inkatha Freedom Party were added

SOUTH Africa's Inkatha Freedom Party launched its election campaign six days before the polls open and is warning from senior officials that an African National Congress victory in KwaZulu/Natal would prove the elections had been rigged.

"If the elections are free and fair, there is no doubt that Chief Buthelezi will be the next state president. If Buthelezi does not win, it will be clear that the elections have been fixed," Prince Gideon Zulu told a crowd of 7,000 people in Ulundi, the homeland's capital.

Prince Gideon's sentiment was echoed by several members of Chief Buthelezi's Inkatha central committee. Themba Ntshane insisted that the IFP would win a "landslide" in the province. "The only way we could lose is if there is rigging," he said.

Gunshots from people celebrating Inkatha's eleventh-hour entry into South Africa's first non-racial elections rang out all over Ulundi as crowds of Inkatha supporters poured in from remote villages. It is far from clear what will happen in Natal. All that can safely be said is that the ANC and Inkatha are likely to run neck-and-neck. Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC secretary-general, said yesterday that the entry of Inkatha actually strengthened the chances of an overall ANC victory in the province.

Strategists within the ruling National Party, which is virtually certain to be voted out of office next week, are now

considering the implications of the entry of Inkatha into the elections and are beginning to be excited by the prospect. Inkatha's participation raises the distinct possibility that the ANC could be deprived of control of two more provincial assemblies.

Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader and KwaZulu Chief Minister, looked downcast and exhausted after a week of negotiations which ended on Tuesday. He said he thought it would be a miracle if Inkatha won in the province next week. "But your enthusiasm and support give me courage that something miraculous will happen in spite of us starting so late," he told the crowd.

Asked earlier if he would accept a Cabinet position in an ANC-dominated government, he said that he did not know that Inkatha would win the 5 per cent nationally required to secure a position in the Cabinet. He also refused to speculate on Inkatha's chances in its KwaZulu/Natal stronghold. "I am not in the habit of prophesying," he said.

Chief Buthelezi's main demand, that KwaZulu/Natal should be part of a federal state, which until this week caused an Inkatha boycott of the elections, was not met in the deal struck to bring Inkatha into the electoral race. He said that he had compromised on this point, which will be settled in the new parliament or in internationally mediated talks "to save the country from disaster".



A young ANC supporter putting up election posters yesterday in Thokoza township

Army replaces discredited peacekeepers in violent townships

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN THOKOZA

AFTER three days of bloody fighting and accusations of incompetence, the beleaguered National Peacekeeping Force was replaced in Thokoza yesterday by battalions of the South African Defence Force.

For the peacekeeping force it marked the end of another sorry chapter in its short troubled history. The decision to redeploy the defence force in East Rand townships came after 24 people had

been killed in Thokoza since the peacekeepers took over last weekend. The latter appear to have alienated both sides in the conflict between the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party and their troops have been targeted since their arrival. Local ANC residents have accused them of cowardice, while Inkatha supporters claim they are biased against them. Yesterday one NPKF soldier was killed and others injured during clashes.

The ANC, which backs the NPKF, accused the force of being

ineffectual in dealing with violence and called for the dismissal of the commander. Echoing concerns expressed by township residents Tokyo Swalebe, the ANC's Transvaal leader, claimed there were too few NPKF troops on the ground, their base was understaffed and the troops were not as well equipped as the SADF, which was the only force capable of stopping the carnage.

By late last year deaths were averaging about 100 a month in East Rand townships. But in February the SADF was deployed

and the number was reduced to 23, then last month to 12. The deployment of the NPKF changed all that. Ironically the idea behind the force had been to win the confidence of blacks who distrusted white-led police riot units. Formed from 13 armies, including homeland defence forces, the ANC's military wing and other guerrillas, the NPKF objective was to ensure free and fair elections by ending the violence.

But local and international critics of the force gave a warning, when it was set up this year, that it

would never be properly trained in the five weeks it was given. Only half of the anticipated 10,000 recruits completed the course and the training programme had been plagued by problems of ill-discipline, strikes, drunkenness and desertion. Last month three officers were suspended.

Later this week 1,000 peacekeepers are scheduled to move to flashpoints in KwaZulu/Natal where 3,000 SADF troops have been enforcing a state of emergency since the end of last month. An anonymous independent

peace monitor greeted the news with concern. "We need troops but these guys will only make the situation worse."

The NPKF, which is being decided by some South African commentators as the "national peacekeeping force", will continue to work alongside the SADF in Thokoza, but the "hot spots" will be patrolled only by the SADF.

London: A cross-party team of 20 MPs and peers will leave on Saturday to monitor the elections. It is headed by Neil Kinnock, the former Labour leader.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UN troops flee from bloodbath in Kigali

Kigali: Panicking United Nations soldiers scrambled on board planes evacuating the war-torn Rwandan capital, Kigali, yesterday as the UN peacekeeping mission neared collapse amid bloody chaos.

Shouting at each other and reciting verses from the Koran, 252 Bangladeshi peacekeepers squashed into aircraft loaded with UN military observers and refugees Jacques-Roger Boot-Boot, UN envoy in Rwanda, said the rest of the force would leave soon if no ceasefire was agreed. (Reuters)

Fiji choice

Suva: Sitiveni Rabuka, the Prime Minister, has picked Taufa Vakalea as Fiji's first woman acting Prime Minister while he visits America. Mr Rabuka has been criticised for saying: "If you relax by kicking your wife around, then do it." (Reuters)

Women march

Dhaka: About 2,000 women, some with cartoons depicting Islamic priests as demons, protested against Muslim clerics in Bangladesh who want to ban Western relief agencies working to provide jobs, education and health care for women. (AP)

Minister killed

Thessaloniki: A Greek minister was killed by a car bomb in Thessaloniki yesterday. The victim was Giorgos Goulas, Georgia's Deputy Interior Minister, and his driver and bodyguard. Supporters of former President Gamsakhurdia, who was ousted in 1992 and committed suicide last year, were suspected. (AP)

Rights denied

Nicosia: The Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia, a Saudi civil rights group set up by conservative religious figures, is moving its operations to Britain because it says it is suffering oppression in Saudi Arabia. (Reuters)

Kurd dispute

Ankara: Iraqi Kurds said they had given the allied Military Co-ordination Commission a file they had taken of the shooting down of two American helicopters by US fighters in northern Iraq. American investigators say they have not seen it. (Reuters)

Murder trial

Graz: Jack Unterwiesing, 43, a convicted murderer who became a protégé of Austria's literary elite after writing novels and poems, in jail, went on trial here accused of strangling 11 prostitutes in three countries, usually with their brassieres. (Reuters)

War deaths

Tokyo: The Japanese Education Ministry has for the first time approved a school textbook that gives an estimate of war dead in Asia from the invasion of Manchuria in 1931 to 1945 — 20 million, including Japan's own dead. (AP)

Car bombed

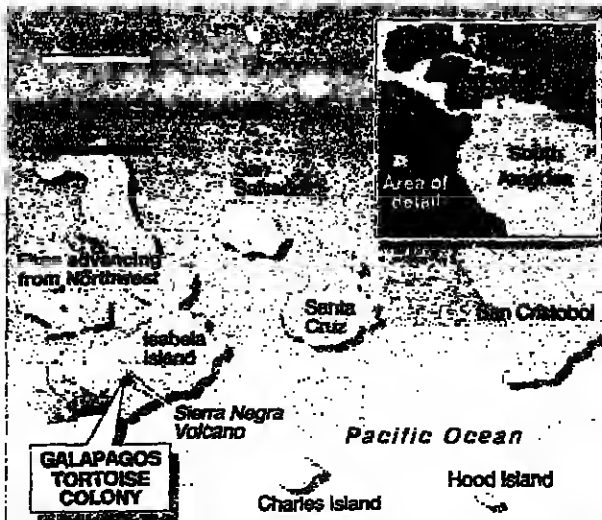
Athens: In the fourth attack against Western diplomats in Greece this week, a Swedish envoy's car was fire bombed. Nobody was hurt. (Reuters)

Battle to save Galapagos wildlife

BY LUCY BERRINGTON

ONE of the world's most treasured natural assets, the largest island of a Pacific archipelago made famous by Charles Darwin, is under threat from forest fires. A state of emergency has been declared on Isabela Island, the largest of the Galapagos chain, 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador. American and Canadian forestry experts arrived this week to help to fight the fires, following calls from the Ecuadorian government for help. About 400 giant tortoises, which are 4ft long and weigh 500 lbs, and scores of other unique reptiles and plants are at risk from the flames.

The Galapagos archipelago is known as a living laboratory for studies of flora and fauna, which have developed unusual characteristics as a result of their long separation from the mainland. A quarter of the fish, half of the plants and almost all the reptiles are unique to the islands. The fires have been burning since April 11 and have consumed 3,000 acres, including vast areas of woodland. Laercio Almeida, director of the civil defence agency, said it could take a month to put out the flames. Attempts to con-



tain the blaze failed when the wind changed. "Sadly Ecuador does not have the facilities to put out the fires," said Alfredo Carrasco, secretary-general of the Charles Darwin Foundation based in Quito, Ecuador. Yesterday afternoon he was awaiting the arrival of two Canadian firefighting planes which would could dump water on the flames, but said at least six would be needed to extinguish the blaze.

The Galapagos, 13 large islands and scores of smaller

islands straddling the equator, were named the Enchanted Islands on their discovery in the 16th century. Many of the dark volcanic landscapes remain uninhabited. The archipelago, dubbed by Darwin "a little world within itself" when he visited in 1835, is home to marine iguanas, which resemble shrunken dinosaurs and are the only sea-going lizards. Isabela's bird population, which helped to inspire the theory of evolution, includes a flightless cormorant.

The Isabela fire is thought to

be within seven miles of the tortoise colonies at the Sierra Negra volcano in the south of the island, advancing at up to half-a-mile an hour. Plans to evacuate the tortoises were being drawn up yesterday, but no such operation has yet been scheduled.

"We are studying the possibility of evacuating [the tortoises], but it will be a very difficult task," Mr Almeida said.

The tortoises are being bred at the Charles Darwin research station in Santa Cruz and re-introduced to the wild. Much of their population was plucked to stock the larders of 18th- and 19th-century whalers and sailors. Ecologists suspect the fire was started by human error and its spread was accelerated by the recent drought, volcanic gases and dust. A hundred military troops, civil defence workers and ecologists are fighting the blaze.

Isabela, 80 miles long and 30 miles wide, has just one town of 1,000 fishermen on the south side of the island, far enough away from the fire to be unaffected. In 1985 a 48-day fire in the same area destroyed 50,000 acres of forest.

Leading article, page 17



Roseanne Arnold and husband 'making up'

Los Angeles: Comedian Tom Arnold says that he and Roseanne, his television star wife, are ready to make up, a day after she sued for divorce and accused him of beating and abusing her, a Los Angeles TV station reported.

"I still love Roseanne and she loves me," KNEC quoted Arnold as saying on Tuesday night. He denied allegations that he abused his wife, star of the hit ABC comedy series Roseanne.

Kate Muir, page 14

Cambodia blames Thais for Khmer Rouge victory

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BANGKOK

HUN SEN, one of Cambodia's two joint Prime Ministers, yesterday accused the Thai army of transporting hundreds of Khmer Rouge guerrillas through Thailand to launch the recapture of their headquarters and main source of revenue in Pailin.

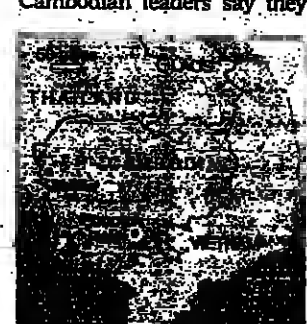
Speaking in the western provincial capital of Battambang, where he had gone in a belated effort to encourage his troops and stave off a defeat at Pailin, 50 miles away, Hun Sen also said the Khmer Rouge had received artillery support from inside Thailand.

"I accuse Thailand of helping the Khmer Rouge," Hun Sen said angrily. The Thais have consistently denied the accusation and are likely to do so again.

Whether they had Thai support or not, the Khmer Rouge action has humiliated the government, whose forces captured Pailin a month ago and comes after Phnom Penh had been saying the Khmer Rouge was on the point of collapse.

five miles from Pailin, many demoralised soldiers ran away saying they had received insufficient food and medicine.

Bangkok-based envoys say the tense situation along the Thai-Cambodian border is now a matter of concern. Cambodian leaders say they



reserve the right to fire on Khmer Rouge tanks across the border, while Thai commanders claim they are ready to protect the country from attacks by Cambodian forces. General Wisol Wongwanich, the Thai army commander-in-chief, accused the Cambodians of lying and said that, if

pushed to the limit, Thailand may have to respond with "an eye for an eye... there are limits to our patience."

While the Cambodians are angry over alleged Thai support of the Khmer Rouge, the Thais are annoyed because they say that Phnom Penh is making accusations in public instead of dealing with the issue through diplomatic channels.

Bangkok plans to ask representatives of the Association of South-East Asian Nations, meeting in Thailand next week, to look into the dispute.

Thai commanders say that, by accusing them of helping the Khmer Rouge, Cambodian officers were covering up their own incompetence.

Diplomats here believe that individual Thai commanders along the border are supporting the Khmer Rouge because of lucrative interests in timber and gems from Pailin. The Thai government wants to distance itself from the Khmer Rouge, but has yet to rein in effectively military commanders along the border, diplomats say.

Doctors judge Nixon 'critical' and return him to intensive care

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AFTER a lifetime of political battles, some won and others lost, Richard Nixon was fighting for his life yesterday.

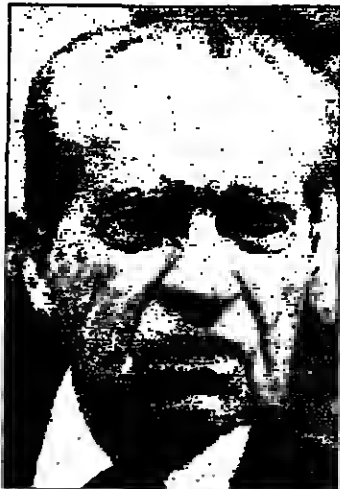
Seemingly out of danger after his stroke on Monday night, the 81-year-old former President deteriorated late on Tuesday and yesterday was back in intensive care in a critical condition.

Mr Nixon's doctors called his prognosis "guarded" and said the next couple of days were crucial. Having said earlier that he was alert, they said he was now only "drowsily arousable". For the first time they also conceded that the stroke, which paralysed most of his right side and left him unable to speak, was "major".

Mr Nixon had been moved into a private room in New York's Cornell Medical Centre late on Tuesday, but was taken back to intensive care barely two hours later when a scan detected a new swelling in his brain, one of the complications doctors most fear in stroke victims.

Tricia Cox and Julie Eisenhower, Mr Nixon's two daughters, remained at his bedside. He was being attended by 12 nurses and many doctors and was having every possible attention. Fred Plum, the hospital's chief neurologist, said, Dr Plum also said that Mr Nixon had recently been receiving treatment for an irregular heartbeat that can make patients susceptible to blood clots and therefore strokes.

Mr Nixon's friends called him a fighter and refused to give up hope. "He will certainly lick anything



Nixon: paralysed down his right side

that can be licked by willpower and tenacity," Henry Kissinger, his former Secretary of State, said.

Details emerged yesterday about the circumstances of Mr Nixon's stroke. He had spent much of Monday working on a speech for Republican fund-raising events and received the page proofs for his next book, entitled *Beyond Peace*. He was in good humour and had walked out on to the balcony of his New Jersey home before dinner to enjoy the beautiful evening.

The first sign that something was wrong came when he dropped his glass of mineral water. He staggered into the kitchen where Heidi Ketter, his housekeeper, was cook-

ing. Mr Nixon gave up his secret service protection several years ago. Alarmed by his appearance, she helped him to a sofa and called an ambulance which took him to the hospital.

Mr Nixon's aides said his office had received hundreds of messages from politicians, world leaders and ordinary Americans who remembered the former President for his many achievements before Watergate and in the 20 years since he became the first President forced from office in disgrace.

Those achievements included re-opening relations with China and pioneering détente with the Soviet Union. President Yeltsin of Russia was among those who wished Mr Nixon a speedy recovery yesterday, even though he had refused to see him during his visit to Moscow last month because Mr Nixon had first met opposition leaders. Russians "know well how much effort you put in to normalising Russian-American relations", Mr Yeltsin said in his message.

China said yesterday that it hoped Mr Nixon would recover soon. "Nixon is an old friend of the Chinese people. He has made positive contributions to Sino-US relations," the foreign ministry said.

Mr Nixon is one of a record five living former Presidents, the others being Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and George Bush, but strokes appear to be an occupational hazard: six of the 42 occupants of the Oval Office suffered strokes during or after their terms.

Jury to decide whether policemen must pay beaten driver

Rodney King stands to gain \$7m damages

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

A FEDERAL jury, which has already awarded Rodney King almost \$4 million (£2.7 million) in compensation for his savage beating at the hands of four white Los Angeles policemen, returns to court today to decide whether the officers should pay additional punitive damages to the black motorist. Legal experts predict that Mr King may be awarded up to \$3 million if the officers are found individually liable, making the total compensation \$6.8 million.

On Tuesday, the first phase of the civil trial ended when the city of Los Angeles was ordered to pay \$3.81 million, plus costs, to Mr King to compensate for loss of earnings, medical expenses, pain, suffering and legal fees. The sum is equivalent to approximately \$68,000 for each of the 56 baton blows, punches and kicks Mr King suffered when he was stopped for speeding in March 1991. The incident was videotaped by a member of the public and later broadcast worldwide.

Daryl Gates, the former police chief and one of 15 current or former police officers involved in the incident who may now have to pay further punitive damages, condemned the verdict and described Mr King as "a jerk... [who is] not worth \$3.8 million in terms of his ability to make that money in a lifetime".

Mr King, 29, who was unemployed at the time of his arrest, has not worked since the beating and medical experts testified that the ordeal had left him with permanent brain damage. "I felt like I had been raped," he told jurors during the three-week civil trial. "I felt like a cow that was waiting to be slaughtered, like a piece of meat."

The defendants in the second phase of the trial include the four officers who carried out the beating. In 1992 all four men were acquitted in a state trial, a verdict that sparked three days of violent rioting. Two of the officers were later convicted of violating Mr King's civil rights and are serving 30-month sentences.



Rodney King could be awarded additional punitive damages in court today

Row over legal powers delays Israeli pullout

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM AND RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

DEMANDS by the Palestine Liberation Organisation that Jewish settlers and foreign tourists committing offences in the planned self-rule areas of Jericho and the Gaza Strip must be subject only to Arab jurisdiction have been rejected by Israel which insists on dealing with all non-Palestinians involved in a legal dispute or criminal offence.

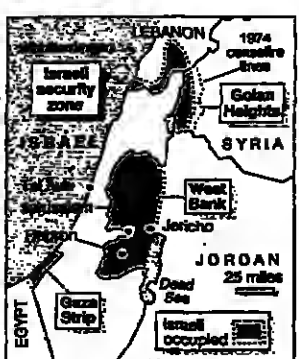
Nabil Shaath, the chief PLO negotiator at the continuing talks in Cairo, said that Israel's claim to continuing jurisdiction was in direct breach of the Declaration of Principles signed in Washington by the two sides last September and could delay further the signing of the final accord enabling Israel to start pulling back its troops.

Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, issued a warning in Moscow yesterday that further withdrawal delays could risk turning the Middle East into another Balkans war, and called on Russia to put pressure on Israel to speed the process.

Observers said that the latest dispute went to the root of the differing attitudes being adopted, with the PLO determined to acquire the trappings of statehood while Israel is anxious to ensure that key powers are withheld from the

new Palestinian authority. Some 4,000 Jewish settlers will stay on in the Gaza Strip after the Israeli pull-back and a much smaller number near Jericho in the occupied West Bank.

The legal situation has been complicated by a ruling this week by Michael Ben-Yair, Israel's Attorney General, that Israel law did not apply to the same degree in the territories occupied in 1967. 12 suspects held: Israel has rounded up 362 suspected activists of the militant Islamic Hamas organisation. Hamas has killed 12 Israelis in bombings this month, and has vowed to keep striking until it equals the death toll of about 30 Arabs massacred in Hebron in February by a Jewish settler. (Reuters)



Alimony case lands Gucci in Bronx jail

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

PAOLO Gucci, whose family name is a byword for expensive European chic, has been thrown into a squalid Bronx jail after failing to provide nearly half a million dollars in alimony payments.

Mr Gucci, 63, was arrested by a pair of sheriff's deputies two weeks ago on the orders of the Supreme Court judge who is presiding over the Italian millionaire's messy divorce from his second wife, Jennifer Paddock Gucci. The grandson of the founder of the Gucci empire has languished in the notoriously unpleasant Bronx House of Detention ever since.

Judge Phyllis Gauged-Jacob found Mr Gucci in contempt of court for failing to pay \$480,000 (£335,000) in maintenance to his wife and child support for their 10-year-old daughter. Mr Gucci filed for bankruptcy earlier this year but his wife's lawyer claims he provides lavishly for his 22-year-old girlfriend, Penny Armstrong, and their baby.

Estimates of Mr Gucci's fortune range from \$15 million to \$30 million, but at a court hearing earlier this month he insisted he was broke. The judge, however, maintained that his bankruptcy was voluntary.

Hosokawa exits with the fading cherry blossom

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

Japanese Prime Ministers traditionally celebrate spring with a lavish garden party under blossom-laden cherry trees. Yesterday foreign guests arrived for a celebration laden with the poignancy so beloved of their hosts; not only was a Prime Minister who had resigned hosting the party, but the blossom — symbolic of life's uncertainties — ended its brief life early this year.

During April, in the two weeks or so when pale pink petals relieve the severity of Tokyo's concrete canyons, Japanese flock to drink rice wine and picnic under the floral canopies at blossom-viewing parties called *hanami*.

Until the collapse of more than 40 years of Liberal Democratic Party rule last year, there was precious little beauty to be appreciated in the political world but it had a certainty and continuity about it. Now that is gone and Japan is adrift in the choppy waters of coalition government.

During the Second World War, the cherry blossom became a symbol of the *kamikaze* pilot dying bravely at the peak of youth for a noble cause. Since 1952, when Japanese officialdom elevated the *hanami* into a diplomatic and political party, the most celebrated annual gathering has been the Prime Minister's.

This year, however, the Prime Minister, Morihiro Hosokawa, has been preoccupied with fighting off corruption allegations. He announced his resignation on April 8, just as nearly 7,500 gilt-edged *hanami* invitations were dispatched by bureaucrats. Mr Hosokawa and his family then moved from the

Prime Minister's official residence and dropped from sight, leaving bemused guests to wonder whether there would be a Prime Minister to host the gala affair.

Nonetheless, the observation of social rituals is of paramount importance in Japan. So yesterday, under branches laden with heavy pink blossoms, crowds milled from 9 am around tables stacked with traditional grilled chicken, sushi — or raw fish and rice balls — and, for a garish "international" touch, Kentucky fried chicken pieces, with red-and-white-striped tubs of *cornu sarada* (corn salad). Near the food tables was a stand selling disposable cameras and film for those who wanted to record the occasion.

The crowds queuing up to gain their prized souvenir sake cups — wooden boxes in which sake, or rice wine, is traditionally served — had ample time to reflect on the irony of it all. Amid the falling cherry blossom petals, at precisely 11 am, in walked the reformist Prime Minister who swept to power last August on promises of cleaning up politics and who fell so soon to charges of financial impropriety. Such is the poignancy of life, and a promising career short-lived, mused some aged guests.

Accompanied by his wife, Mr Hosokawa shook hands tirelessly as he was mobbed by camera-wielding crowds and TV crews. In any other country it would have been a security nightmare, but Mr Hosokawa, cool and collected, simply inched ahead and exited down a gentle slope.

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Sorry, your time is up

The television documentary series that lost its way and its viewers

News of the demise of BBC2's *40 Minutes* seems not to have set the world on fire. On Tuesday night, its valditory compilation programme — lamely entitled *Times Remembered* — was up against such strong competition on other channels that it's not impossible it was broadcast to an audience of one (me).

Times Remembered got no reviews in the broadsheet national newspapers next day. *Radio Times* didn't do a feature. It was as though a gun had been put to the poor hobbled creature's head, and it was a final kindness to look the other way.

Quite sad, all this, but after 13 years on the air *40 Minutes* had become a byword for editorial shambles, not to mention that irritating fridge at the beginning with the goldfish inside. Viewers don't mind about the variety of subject or documentary approach in a regular flagship, but



LYNNE TRUSS

a guarantee of quality they do require, and *40 Minutes* had stopped providing it. The history of the series is quite straightforward. It is that old tale of media mismanagement — of popular quality stuff being ditched in the cause of journalistic principles not sufficiently worked out.

40 Minutes has had four logos, four editors, and four changes of style (which is, alas, too many). Under its first editor Roger Mills it established a good foothold as a successor to *Man Alive*; then, under Edward Mirzeoff (in the mid-1980s days of the Man Ray eyeball metro-nome), it attained average viewing figures of around 4 million, and won heaps of awards, after which it was all downhill.

"Just like *Readers Digest*" was the fashionable analogy voiced by critics of Mirzeoff's *40 Minutes*. Within the corporation the content was considered too lightweight, too soft — who needed more human interest stories, even when done with style and humanity?

Mirzeoff encouraged young programme-makers such as the outstanding Molly Dineen (*Home from the Hill*, *The Angel*, *The Ark*); and his team was strong on "anthology" programmes in which several people talked about first love, or whatever. He would protest that the series also

tackled tough subjects (Broadmoor, Aids) but it was the consistent quality of the human interest that set the overall tone and grabbed the viewers (remember the one about the London bus?).

40 Minutes had come to mean something, so of course it was changed. In 1989, Caroline Pick was appointed and the present identity crisis set in, when people discovered that the opposite of soft is sometimes indigestible. Viewing figures halved, but the 1990 Bafta Award committee still shortlisted the programme.

Then, in 1992, Paul Watson was appointed to tighten up the programme, gruffify it and broaden its appeal.

In the late 1980s Watson had been a critic of the softer *40 Minutes*, his point being that British television needed to document the state of Thatcher's Britain. By the time he got the post, however, other documentary series had risen to the challenge (BBC's *Inside*

Story, Channel 4's *Cutting Edge*) and in any case you didn't need documentaries on homelessness, you just needed to open your front door and look out.

Watson's ambition for *40 Minutes* was to make it "The Picture Post of contemporary television", but this proved not to be an effective rallying cry. In the last season, he gave us clever provocative films such as *The Making of Them* (about prep schools), but also bad amateurish pieces (on Vauxhall's "squeegies", for example) and an astonishingly out-of-place programme on the lone career of Ernie Wise.

For the noiseless passing of *40 Minutes* one could blame Birtism or just bad timing. One could argue, too, that such huge eclectic series are simply no longer manageable, when the BBC is obliged to use a proportion of independent productions and is perpetually looking over its shoulder at the competition.

Mirzeoff's solid broad-church in-house style of *40 Minutes* could not have gone on for ever, of course, nor would anyone have wished it. But let's just hope Michael Jackson's replacement comes up with a serial identity the viewer can cling on to. After all, it worked once. Perhaps it can work again.

Kate Muir cringes at the spate of American stars exploiting their private lives

Wedded to the front page

Sometimes the roller-coaster of sleaze pauses on a peak, and the little people's minds are concentrated on the scenes of debauchery and turpitude created by the famous. This is one of those moments.

A fine slogan for this week might be "Back to Baseness". For those not in tune with the popular press, the following events have occurred: Roseanne Arnold, the sitcom queen, has announced that she is divorcing her husband Tom, describing herself as a "classic battered and abused wife". Actor Richard Gere and model Cindy Crawford are, claim the papers, "preparing to end their sham marriage". Actors Don Johnson and Melanie Griffiths announce, and then cancel, their divorce almost weekly now. Earlier this month, singer Billy Joel and model Christie Brinkley announced their separation. Meanwhile, much doubt has been cast on the squeaky-clean marriage of Calvin and Kelly Klein by an unauthorised biography, which alleges that the designer has had affairs with men.

All this to-ing and fro-ing would be fine if done in private. But the irritation for the little people forced to live this acrimony vicariously is that for many celebrities marriage is a public relations tool, entered into not for life but for headlines, improved ratings and better paparazzi shots. A spouse is merely an (expensive) accessory, acquired with as much thought as that given to buying a fashionable Japanese pug puppy, which is abandoned when the winds change.

In Hollywood, of course, marriage was always thus — thin on commitment, big on fanfare. In the early days it was the studios who would create "arranged" marriages for their stars. These ideas were rarely successful — MGM tried (and failed) to persuade Judy Garland and Fred Astaire to marry, and a mogul at Columbia tried (and also failed) to stop Rita Hayworth from marrying Orson Welles. Now it is the celebrities themselves and their personal publicity agents who muse upon ways to hug the headlines, or at least try to get box office returns out of an event already happening.

At least in the old days the little people simply heard about the marriage and the break-up. Now, we have to go through the 12-step recovery programme and the psychotherapy with the star. We are ground down by the torrent of emotion shared on the airwaves and in newspapers large and small. We know about Roseanne coming to terms with childhood abuse, having "family therapy" in her



Melanie Griffiths with her husband Don Johnson, who told one radio host: "I can do what I want. I'm famous and I'm bigger than you."

marriage and then suggesting that she and her husband Tom were intent on marrying the same woman.

The latest news on the Arnold marriage was of zero interest to ordinary people. "Why do I have to hear this? I just don't want to know anything else about the woman," screamed a New Yorker vox-popped on local radio about the Roseanne-Tom split. As the radio reporter stood on the street corner on Manhattan's West Side, people ran from the microphone shouting: "I just don't care!" Roseanne's new autobiography has had unexpectedly low sales, as potential readers claim they have heard it all before on talk shows.

Celebrities no longer need a priest when they have the media as a great public confessional. These are plastic celebrities indulging in plastic marriages which are neither built to last nor even to be recycled like the union of Liz Taylor and Richard Burton.

The lives of the rich and famous almost completely consist of pseudo-events and photo opportunities, as social historian Daniel Boorstin noted long ago when he wrote *The Image*. "The celebrity," he wrote, "is a person known for his well-knownness."

A fine example of this is Shannen Doherty, the hormonal star of the soap *Beverly Hills 90210*. She was given the front cover of the celebrity magazine *People* last June when her ex-fiance claimed in court she tried to shoot him. By October, she was back on

the cover again, with "Shannen's Secret Wedding" to George Hamilton's son, Ashley. By April, she announced plans for divorce and made the magazine's pages again. All this in less than a year.

What more could a publicity

agent ask for? (Answer: the everlasting saga of the break-up of Burt Reynolds and Loni Anderson, but that is another story).

What really sticks in the gut is, when Hollywood designates itself a moral arbiter and crusader. "Aren't we

wonderful?" said a self-congratulatory Whoopi Goldberg at the Oscars, following the awards for *Philadelphia* and *Schindler's List*. There may be wonderful individuals among them, but the acting community as a whole wins an award for hypocrisy.

So little has changed. Camp androgyny was part of Rudolph Valentino's image and acting style, yet he was a sex symbol for millions of women in the silent films of the 1920s. Valentino made a marriage of convenience with Jeani Acker, a lesbian actress who, at that time, was more successful than he was. They spent their wedding night in separate bedrooms.

Because the appetite for celebrity is endless, the chances of actors becoming bloated with self-importance are high. This was made clear by Don Johnson when he discussed his marriage in colourful language on a recent Miami radio show. He seemed a little tired and emotional, as they say, during the broadcast, and when asked to desist from expletives, he told the host: "I can do what I want. I'm famous and I'm bigger than you."



Left: Cindy Crawford and husband Richard Gere; right: Roseanne and Tom Arnold

Sage who knows his onions

The multi-layered Sir Peter Ustinov is back on the London stage. Valerie Grove meets him

David Frost is on the line. "Sir Peter," "Sir David," Frost has caught Ustinov at an irascible moment. My own arrival interrupted him just as he was about to butter himself a slice of bread — what could be more irritating? Then the telephone never stopped. Sir David implored Sir Peter to come on his show. Sir Peter agreed. Sir David was grateful. There was a festive exchange of current American locations denoting flattery: "You're a person." "You're a mensch." "You're real."

The public phenomenon of Peter Ustinov, whose one-man show opened last night at the refurbished Theatre Royal, Haymarket, is reflected in the private one. Meeting Sir Peter, you discover that every small incident in life is anecdote fodder. A Spanish maid has thrown away a paper bag with a cake inside. Immediately he becomes the Spanish maid — ferocious, stilted, truculent: "I tell you I don't see no cake." In the next breath he is remembering an American chat show where a guest poured out a torrent of abuse about her ex-husband, whereupon the hostess said: "We want to thank you so much for coming along and sharing with us your hostilities."

Ustinov will imitate anyone and anything from a president to a wind-screen-wiper. He has got the Clinton voice, he says, but he has not yet got a text. He regards his one-man show as "a more intellectual and certainly a more lucrative form of jogging."

It is an extended selection of his anecdotes, some familiar — but why not? Many have not heard Ronald Reagan saying "Ich bin ein Hamburger" before. Anyway Victor Borge has been giving the same show for centuries.

How is his bath? "Still impossible to use," Ustinov says miserably. Letters pile up in the bath of the Paris flat where he has his office, though he lives in Switzerland. Those inviting him to receive awards get through by fax. On his 73rd birthday last Saturday he was in Munich receiving 100,000 Deutschmarks from a grateful Germany for his outstanding contribution to the arts. In France he occupies the *fauteuil* of Orson Welles in the French Academy of Fine Arts. ("One of my daughters is a jeweller so I got my sword at cost.") At home he is Chancellor of Durham University — "the only way I could get into

any university was through the top" — and of course there was his knight-hood. "To the strains of a military band playing 'I'm gonna wash that man right outa my hair' [imitates military band] 'the Queen lifted her sword very high above my head, which suggested that there must have been an inadvertent beheading in the past.'"

In the window of his rented Chelsea flat there is a lean greyhound with a smug expression. "We call it Mitchison," he says, referring to a journalist who has recently made him cross by asking him whether he often



Ustinov: political pessimism

thinks about death; and whether his show is ever booed. But the worst interviewers are the French: "Mon-sieur Ustinov. Qui êtes-vous?" Last year he "fanned" interviewer himself for television, with his old friend Pavarotti. Once, humble Ustinov had beaten Pavarotti at tennis. Now they rolled, while-like in Pavarotti's swimming pool. Why did both wear T-shirts? Well, explained Sir Peter: Pavarotti always wore one to bathe in, so he did too, to be polite. "Like accommodating the Arab sheikh by eating the eye of the sheep." There are

few more uncomfortable garments than a cold wet T-shirt clinging to one's knees.

After London, he will be filming Dickens's *The Old Curiosity Shop* for Disney, in Limerick. Then to Austria to make a film about Flaydun. Later we see his series on the Vatican. Beneath the constant demands of showbiz lurks a profound political pessimism, and a revulsion from the "wave of cultural mediocrity" he sees everywhere. We expect him to be a performing bear. But elsewhere — in Russia, where he was conceived, and in Germany, where his novels sell massively — he is a sage. His column for *The European* is serious. His role as UNESCO ambassador gives him unique insights.

This week he startled the *Start the Week* panel — Dr Penelope Leach, David Cannadine etc — into silence. They were talking of how we bring up children. Sir Peter told them about the children he meets in Russia: orphaned boys of seven who are heads of families, gruff-voiced heavy smokers already or two five-year-old girls abandoned to starve in a locked house, where they are their cat.

While in London, he ambles along to the Garrick Club, but with trepidation. It reminds him of being back at Westminster School, among all those "born to rule" boys, with similar regulations. "At Westminster," he says, "you were beaten if you stepped on a certain stone. In the cloister, commemorating Muzio Clemente, Father of the Modern Piano forte. At the Garrick I know there are certain seats where I may not sit, because I am not old enough, and doors I cannot go through because I am not accompanied by someone. Others I can't go through because I am accompanied by someone."

THE TIMES TRAVEL OFFER



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Is Sir Peregrine as sick as a parrot? ... the health benefits of eating more vegetables ... reducing the risk of strokes



THE PARROT family has had a bad press recently. In Wetherby, Yorkshire, Margaret Fussey has taken her neighbour, Fred Kennedy, to court over the constant cheeping of his budgerigars which persistently disturb her sleep. Further south, Sir Peregrine Worsthorpe blames a chance encounter with a parrot on his lawn, or possibly a nip from an aggressive parrot invited to one of his wife's book launches last year, for the ill health he has suffered over the past few months.

Parrots transmit psittacosis, a disease as well as members of the parrot family. Sir Peregrine could, in fact, have equally easily have caught the strain of *Chlamydia*, the organism which transmits the disease, by feeding the pigeons in Trafalgar Square, poking his finger through the canary's cage in his local pub, or sitting on gull-

The danger in a bird cage

infested rocks on a Cornish cliff.

Canaries, budgerigars, pigeons, both the feral varieties as well as carrier pigeons in lofts, are all responsible from time to time for human outbreaks of the disease. *Chlamydia* in these cases is spread by inhalation of the dust from either dried bird droppings or from their feathers. (There are many varieties of *Chlamydia*, of which the best known is that which causes non-specific urethritis, and in women non-gonococcal cervicitis and pelvic inflammatory disease.)



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

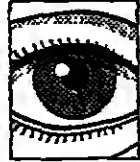
Characteristically, in a case of psittacosis, the patient suffers from 'flu-like symptoms. After a fortnight's incubation period there is a fever, and, as with most viral infections, loss of appetite and a general malaise. The cough becomes more pronounced as pneumonia (inflammation of the lungs) extends and true pneumonia, consolidation of the lung, develops. The disease

can be severe. Sir Peregrine was disturbed to hear that the king of the Hellenes died from psittacosis in 1922 — this outcome was not at

that time unusual, as in untreated cases the death rate is 30 per cent. Treatment is with tetracyclines. Doxycycline is the favoured preparation but, as in all *Chlamydia* infections at least a ten-day course is needed.

Sir Peregrine's diagnosis was made as the result of blood tests, and therein lies a catch. Although signs are obvious, it is possible to suffer sub-clinical infections and it may be Sir Peregrine had psittacosis many years ago and has, like many others, merely had 'flu.

Stay green



RESEARCH over the past few years has suggested that taking the antioxidant vitamins Beta carotene, Vitamin C and Vitamin E might give protection against cellular damage and thereby reduce the incidence of some forms of cancer and heart disease. Disappointingly, these earlier

findings have not been confirmed by an American-Finnish survey. For eight years there was an investigation of the effect of Beta carotene — which the body converts to Vitamin A, and Vitamin E — on 29,000 Finns who smoke. The results, reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, showed that — except for a significant reduction in the number of cases of cancer of the prostate — the vitamins had no demonstrable beneficial effect. The authors suggest that vegetables may contain other ingredients, as yet unidentified, which could be beneficial and that a high vegetable diet was still recommended.

Better news comes from the University of East Anglia. It is reported that research by Dr George Duncan, head of cell biology at the university, and his associates, has explained the way in which antioxidant vitamins in some cases can delay the onset of cataracts.

Dr Duncan, too, recommends a diet high in vegetables. He prescribes spinach, or an equivalent vegetable, to be taken at least five times a week.

Struck down



ALTHOUGH American medicine has led the way in the prevention of strokes, it is still a common cause of death and disability there. Richard Nixon is the latest victim.

Swelling of the brain (cerebral oedema) invariably accompanies any stroke. It is not unusual to lose the power of speech and the ability to walk and it is usually some days before an accurate assessment can be made either of the damage done to the brain, or of the patient's chances of making a good recovery.

Strokes and heart attacks are not synonymous. In a stroke, the circulation to a part of the brain is interrupted either by a small blood clot (an embolus), by the obstruction of the blood vessel by a thrombus (a clot composed of blood, fatty tissue and fibrin), or by the rupture of a blood vessel with subsequent bleeding, which

causes destruction of the neighbouring cerebral tissue.

The term 'stroke' is used only in relation to the brain, and not to heart attacks. Heart attacks are also often described as coronaries, or technically as myocardial infarcts; there are, however, many other causes of sudden cardiac death as well as those caused by an obstruction of the coronary artery, all of which could be described as a heart attack.

The American success in reducing the incidence of strokes can, in a large part, be attributed to the earlier detection and treatment of high blood pressure.

The regime of taking an aspirin daily has had a considerable influence, although the optimum dose is still in doubt. Recently there have been suggestions that more than one tablet a day might be of added benefit. However, the latest research published in the magazine *Stroke* suggests that one a day is usually adequate, and that the patient still gains advantage if this is cut to as little as a quarter a day should side effects make it impossible for him to take the full amount.

A new pill prescribed for pets can help to prevent another summer of itchy ankles, says Julia Llewellyn Smith

The flea plague is coming

If the first cuckoo heralds the beginning of spring, the first flea bite marks the height of summer. But the time to start searching our pets for fleas is now. Once we find them, we must resist the urge to swat them. Instead, wrap them in Sellotape, pop them in an envelope and send them off to scientific research.

We must do this to honour Flea Awareness Week, which starts at the beginning of May. "We will give all fleas sent to us a decent burial and we will use them to get an indication of where fleas are hatching first," says a spokeswoman for the week. "The idea is not to do anything necessarily scientific, but to make people realise that they have fleas all the year round and to deal with them in the early stages before a full-scale infestation starts."

While bed bugs, ants, cockroaches and other household pests are all in decline, the *Ctenocephalides felis*, or the cat flea (which also lives on dogs) seems unstoppable. In 1991 to 1992, the latest figures available, 53,704 people called in a council pest control officer to fumigate their home, a rise of 71 per cent on the previous year.

Vets believe that virtually every cat and dog in the country will be affected by fleas at some stage.

Why are fleas so widespread? According to Dr John Maumder, of Cambridge University's Entomology Centre, who admits modestly to knowing more about fleas than most of us, our badly-ventilated

homes are to blame. Also at fault are our thick carpets and soft furnishings — all ideal conditions for flea eggs to flourish on.

Another factor is a recent run of mild winters that the fleas have loved. Even last winter qualified as warm, it seems, because we had no prolonged frosty periods.

Each adult flea lays up to 500 eggs in its lifetime, which turn into larvae resembling little segmented worms. These live in the house, feeding on tiny bits of skin, wool and other organic goodies until they pupate and finally hatch into jumping, blood-sucking adult fleas.

They will not go to seek their prey, but will wait for as long as eight months for an animal to come to them. While waiting they have been known to jump 10,000 times without stopping, hoping to hit upon something juicy.

There is a vast arsenal of anti-flea powders, sprays, collars and traps, but none of these can prevent fleas from thriving. They will merely kill those living on your pet — pests which would have died in a day or so anyway, worn out by a frenzy of breeding. They have no effect on the thousands of larvae produced in this orgy, which are nesting safe in our carpets and curtains.

Household spraying works better, but lavish use of insecticides brings the risk of the creation of a super-flea, resistant to all attackers. The United States has one such flea already and we can expect our own version at any moment.

So must we resign ourselves to a

summer of itchy ankles? Not, according to Dr Maumder, if we give our pets Program, a new pill prescribed by vets. "It's quite exciting," he says. "The pill is sucked up by fleas and a little bit goes into the egg, weakening the developing larvae to such an extent that it never survives. As far as we know it does absolutely nothing to us or the pet." If the pill is started in spring, and all the animals in the house are treated, fleas should no longer be a problem.

Before we run off to claim this wonder drug, we can comfort ourselves that animals do not like humans. Our blood prevents them from breathing properly and they jump onto us as a last resort. As soon as they have eaten enough they jump off again. Their bites may be uncomfortable but they are not dangerous. "The worst harm fleas do is mental and social," says Dr Maumder. "People who have fleas are very inhibited about inviting friends around."

That is if they notice they have fleas, repeated biting desensitises us — and often it is new visitors to a home who suffer the worst. Dr Maumder says: "People like vicars and gas meter inspectors who have to visit a lot of strange homes find that shiny wellington boots are a good defence. The flea can only jump about a foot in height and it bounces off the rubber."

● Flea Awareness Week, 40 Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AB.



Increasing in leaps and bounds: the flea which is attacking our pets — if you see one, wrap it up send it off to the researchers

Winning the battle of the bulge

Hiatus hernias can baffle both doctors and patients, says Dr James Le Fanu

Every year tens of thousands of patients are told, to their utter mystification, that they have a "hiatus hernia". Even by the usual obscure standards of medical jargon, this diagnosis is particularly baffling. Hernias, in the public imagination, are rather fearsome things where the gut bulges out in the groin and can strangulate — requiring an emergency operation.

Presumably this must be similar, but most people would be forgiven for not knowing exactly where "the hiatus" is in their bodies. In fact, the term hiatus is used here in its literal sense, of a gap or opening — the gap being in the diaphragm which

separates the chest from the abdomen and through which the oesophagus, or gullet, connects to the stomach. A hiatus hernia, then, is a protrusion of the upper part of the stomach upwards through the diaphragm and into the chest.

The public's mystification about the nature of hiatus hernias is compounded by medical uncertainty about their true significance. They are very common, and if looked for, will be found in almost one in three of those over the age of 60, in the vast majority of whom they cause no symptoms at all.

But equally they can give

rise to a bewildering variety of different symptoms which, in turn, can be easily confused with other serious illnesses.

Typically, a hiatus hernia causes heartburn, a searing pain behind the sternum which radiates up to the jaw, thus closely mimicking the chest pain typical of angina or even a heart attack.

Alternatively, the hernia may be the cause of an intense, boring pain in the upper part of the abdomen which is readily mistaken for a peptic ulcer. Or the hernia may give rise to dyspepsia — indigestion associated with an uncomfortable sensation of bloatedness which can also be suggestive of gallstones.

Underlying these disparate syndromes, their common cause lies in the reflux of acid from the stomach into the lower part of the oesophagus whose walls, as a result, become red and painful.

The question of how precisely this occurs was not clear until three years ago when Drs J. Dent and W.J. Dodds, of Adelaide Hospital in southern Australia, discovered that the answer lay in the science of belching. Despite its vulgar reputation, belching is actually a very important reflex in allowing the air in the stomach that would otherwise have to travel the length of the gut, thus causing great discomfort, to escape back up through the mouth.

Belching is the most conspicuous manifestation of a continuous process where a valve around the bottom of the oesophagus repetitively relaxes to let small pockets of gas escape in this way. Simila-

neously, acid would reflux back upwards to cause heartburn and other symptoms were it not for the support of the muscles of the diaphragm.

But in the presence of a hiatus hernia, where the oesophageal valve is pushed upwards by the protruding part of the stomach, this support is lost with predictable dire consequences. Acid whooshes backwards, the lining of the oesophagus becomes inflamed and may bleed, muscles go into spasm and the patient experiences one or more of the symptoms already described.

These, in turn, are brought on or exacerbated by anything which encourages acid to flow across the incompetent valve. This may be a change in

position, like bending forwards to tie one's shoelaces or lying back in bed at night. Similarly, a rise in pressure within the abdomen precipitated by straining at stool or eating a large meal will have a similar effect.

The lives of patients with a hiatus hernia would be utterly miserable were it not for two types of drugs, both discovered in the 1970s. The first are histamine receptor antagonists, like Tagamet, which reduce the amount of acid in the stomach, allowing the lining of the oesophagus to heal.

The second are known as prokinetic drugs, such as the anti-sickness pill Maxilone, which by increasing the resting tone of the oesophageal

valve minimises the backwash of gastric secretions. When these fail to control the symptoms, there is little alternative other than to resort to surgery to pull the stomach back down into the abdomen and repair the hiatus in the diaphragm.

Many different operations have been tried with varying degrees of success. Their main drawback has been that too tight a repair traps air in the stomach, preventing its eruption back upwards and, as can be imagined, this is very uncomfortable.

Further, the best of them, pioneered by a brilliant Bristol surgeon, Ronald Belsey, is a major procedure requiring the chest wall to be opened to gain proper access to the hernia.

The option of surgical repair, which ideally would be preferable to the need to take drugs continuously, is now firmly back in favour thanks to the work of Alfred Cuschieri, Professor of Surgery at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee. Two years ago he described to the *American Journal of Surgery* a technique of repair which does not require the opening of the chest or abdomen at all.

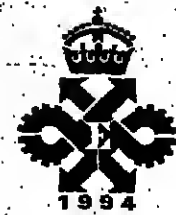
Instead, five fine metal tubes, or laparoscopes, are inserted into different sites of the abdomen, through which very delicate surgical instruments are introduced. This technical tour de force carried out on eight elderly patients was followed by rapid recovery and complete relief of symptoms.

Historically, hiatus hernias have, since they were first described 50 years ago, been a source of confusion to patients and doctors alike. There is no good reason why this should continue to be the case.



The problem revealed: an X-ray of a hiatus hernia. The condition is found in almost one in three people over the age of 60. It can be the cause of acute pain, but in the great majority of cases it causes no symptoms

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Janet Daley



Denying the reality of madness is another way of denying responsibility for people in distress.

If you are too young to remember the 1960s — or loath to recall the more embarrassing details — you might believe that there is only one reason why hundreds of psychotic people are now walking the streets. You might assume that it was just spending cuts that turned large numbers of former mental patients into homeless vagrants: that "under-funding" was entirely to blame for those appalling incidents in which passers-by have been attacked by the dangerously insane.

And, of course, there is something in this. As the Commons Health Select Committee pointed out this week, "community care" of the mentally ill is a disaster. But bad communications and underfunding are by no means the whole story. What laid the groundwork was an ideological fashion which swept through the liberal intelligentsia 30 years ago and became the conventional wisdom of the social services and the sophisticated media. This was the view that mental illness was a myth. The "mad" were simply those who refused to conform to the accepted view of reality. Their odd behaviour was a way of acting out the conflict between the internal truth of their own experience and the prevailing social consensus.

Community care of the mentally ill is a disaster

In Britain, there was a particularly radical rendition of this propagated by the psychiatrist, R.D. Laing. His early writing about schizophrenia seemed compellingly humane, but by the end — when he had become hugely influential — his effusions were a mystical cocktail of political and philosophical babble. His little book, carried in every student rucksack in the late Sixties, *The Politics of Experience and The Bird of Paradise*, stated: "There is little conjunction of 'truth' and social 'reality'. Around us are pseudo-events, to which we adjust with a false consciousness adapted to see these events as true and real... No one can begin to think, feel, or act now except from the starting point of his or her own alienation... We are all murderers and prostitutes no matter how normal, moral or mature one takes oneself to be." And on it went.

When people manifested signs of so-called irrationality, they were simply articulating the contradictions in their social or familial setting. Oppressed by what Laing called the "frightening heartland of a senescent capitalism", those labelled "mad" were being unjustly stigmatised. Less fancifully, there was a disturbing history of people being locked away in mental hospitals for being inadequate and troublesome: uneducated girls who became promiscuous or pregnant were sometimes dealt with like this.

It was grotesque — went

the enlightened view — that people should be locked up in prison-like institutions and subjected to what looked like mind-bending torture. Electro-shock treatment — terrifying and mechanistic — was an effective target for the critics. Sylvia Plath, in her autobiographical novel, *The Bell Jar*, gives a chilling account of her experience of this form of therapy.

As it happens, she also provides an example of the fashionable ambiguity of "madness". Whether she should be seen as a schizophrenic with exceptional creative genius, or a rational victim of sexist oppression is now a matter of historical debate. This argument is being carried out very much in Laingian terms. Was Plath caricatured as mentally unstable when, in fact, she was simply a victim of other people's behaviour? A similar dispute has been set off by the film, *Tom and Viv*, which takes historical liberties with the story of T.S. Eliot's first wife in order to suggest that her alleged psychosis was a conspiracy to get her out of the way.

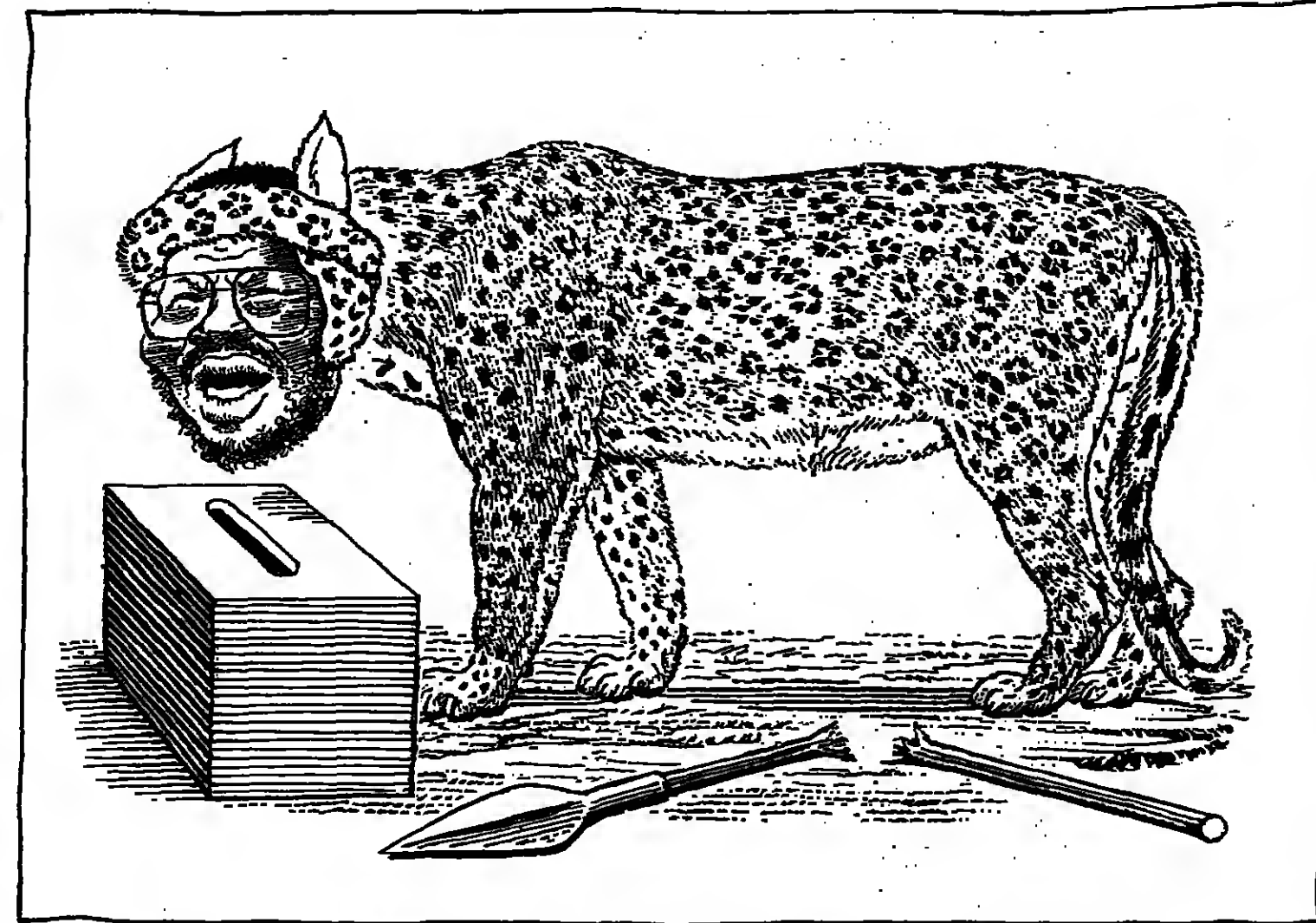
This new feminist guise is one more wrinkle to the politicising of mental illness: people who are called "mad" are an oppressed minority who are actually perceptive visionaries. What is over-

looked is that it might be possible to be mad and visionary. Or mad and utterly banal. And in either case, you are certainly vulnerable and in need of help and protection. But mental hospitals — particularly long-stay ones — came to be seen as scarcely more than penal establishments in which the difficult and the non-conforming could be incarcerated until they mellowed the accepted truths of society.

The object should be to "free" what were, in effect, the political prisoners of bourgeois respectability. Thomas Szasz, the Hungarian-born psychiatrist who led this campaign in the United States, cited Soviet psychiatry, which was regularly used to suppress dissidents, to cast doubt on the motives of all mental-health treatment.

He argued that since there was no agreement on the causes or the definition of schizophrenia, it was not a real disease and psychiatrists were not real doctors but only agents of social control.

So the psychiatric Bas-



CHANGING HIS SPOTS? *Alan Brooke* 21 IV 94

Switch on to the future

British broadcasters must be allowed to grow larger to compete globally

It is said that Michael Green, the Chairman of Carlton Communications, has his enemies; perhaps that is inevitable for a man who has built so large a television empire at a comparatively early age; they come with the franchises. I have only met him a couple of times. He is certainly pleasant company, and has a very quick and lively mind. He has always avoided personal publicity, and has not previously made public statements about the future of television. Now his dominant position in the ITV network, with Carlton and Central, with ITN and even a stake in GMTV, makes it inevitable that he should be written about in his Fleming Memorial Lecture on Tuesday night aroused keen interest among broadcasters; it seems to have been a celebrity occasion.

In his lecture, Michael Green called for total deregulation of television ownership, subject only to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. This would mean that the companies in the ITV system could merge until there was, in theory, only a single company, but only if the commission agreed — which they probably would not. Newspaper groups would be entirely free to own television companies, and television companies would be free to own newspapers. Foreign citizens could own British television companies, as all European citizens already can. At present, Signor Berlusconi is free to own a British television company, but Mr Conrad Black is not, because he owns a newspaper. News International, which owns *The Times*, would also become free to invest in British terrestrial television, though it, like the Pearson Group, might run into monopoly issues because of its existing interests in BSkyB and newspapers.

Michael Green does not argue that programme content should be deregulated. He accepts that the Independent Television Commission "is firmly established as the body to scrutinise programme performance." He does not propose that this should be changed though complete deregulation of ownership might leave the ITC with insufficient authority to carry out its function of programme scrutiny. His argument for the deregulation of ownership is that broadcasting is now a world business. "Technology has made the media a global industry. The significance of national frontiers and national systems of regulation is diminishing constantly." That is certainly correct.

Even Carlton Communications is still a small national competitor in a large world business. Towards the end of his lecture, Michael Green argued that the present regulation of ownership in the television industry would condemn the British media industry to remaining a fragmented, cottage industry. There are in fact a number of British companies, or entrepreneurs, with potential ability to form part of a world communications business. News International already is such a business, with major television interests in Britain, the United States, Australia and Asia, with film interests in America, and print interests in Britain, the United States and Australia. Of course, News International is not a British company, though it has many British shareholders.

There is also a public fear of the political power of the media: that has been increased by the electoral success of Signor Berlusconi in Italy. So far, in Britain, the direct political influence of the print media has probably remained greater than that of broadcasting, though the culture of the broadcasting community shapes the agenda of the nation. At the last election *The Sun* certainly appeared to have more influence on voters than BSkyB, which rightly saw itself as having a reporting function, rather than an opinion-forming function. Some television images were influential: John Major on his soapbox was a positive one, and Neil Kinnock shouting "Well, all right," at Sheffield was negative. But this represented the power of good television reporting to amplify political images, not the slanting of the images them-

selves. Both images were shown impartially on all news channels. Another protection against the excessive political influence of any one man or group is the way in which communications of all kinds are multiplying. The share of the total communications output of any other single provider can be expected to fall over the next ten years as the messages multiply and multiply again. A big share of the small market will inevitably tend to become a smaller share of the gigantic market that is developing, however successful the expansion of any individual business may be. The whole technological trend is towards larger scale operation but away from monopolisation.

Signor Berlusconi's political venture will probably therefore prove to be an exception. Media tycoons have already become more and more international. Rupert Murdoch is an international businessman, in terms of the United States, Britain, Asia and Australia. Conrad Black is international in terms of Britain, north America and Australia. One of the sub-texts of Michael Green's lecture is that he sees the future of Carlton Communications as international. Yet this international business life is not compatible with personal ambitions in national politics; it also fundamentally alters the view of the entrepreneur of the political scene. Seen from Hong Kong the world is different.

The issue is extremely important for the future of the British economy. Communications are already the dominant industry of the current era and will expand rapidly for the next half century. Electronic communication is as important to us as the automobile industry was to the earlier 20th century. Because of the English language, Britain's existing skills and our geographical position, we ought to be the leading European nation in communications. The price of that will probably be the total deregulation of media ownership, subject only to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The international communications enterprises of the mid-21st century — whoever controls them — will be many times larger than the largest such businesses are now. They will require vast resources of capital and open access to markets: it is necessary for the development of such businesses in Britain that we should set them free.

William Rees-Mogg

Firm's dam award

WITH the benefit of hindsight, the Pergau Dam affair in Malaysia, with its alleged links to an arms deal and million of pounds of overseas aid, is unlikely to be held up as an example of how British expertise should best be sold around the world. This, however, has done nothing to prevent the Government from rewarding British companies working on the project.

A firm of environmental consultants which has been advising the Government on the dam has been awarded one of the coveted Queen's Awards for Export. Yesterday, Environmental Resources Management, brought in by the Overseas Development Administration to assess the likely environmental impact of the dam, was celebrating the news.

"We looked at the environmental work that had been carried out on the dam, and we have still got people working on the project," says the company's chief executive, Robin Bidwell. "We are not embarrassed about working on the dam because the technical environmental issues associated with it are nothing to do with the future." The ODA objected to the £234m

aid package for the dam, saying it was too expensive, but its advice to the Government was overruled. Environmental groups claim that much of ERM's advice was also ignored. "There may be a growing export market in environmental consultancy but back home the Government appears not to pay attention to their advice," says Tony Juniper, senior habitat campaigner for Friends of the Earth.

● NOT ONLY were the MPs given another drubbing on the football field yesterday, but the parliamentary cricket team also recently returned from Corfu reporting "annihilation" after being dismissed for 67 by a local XI. According to top-scorer, Graham Allen, his chaps may have been cleverly weakened by two days of pre-match hospitality. But no amount of ouzo and retsina could help Labour MP Derek Enright in his attempts to converse with his generous hosts. Enright speaks only ancient Greek.

Tracks for food

SIR Clement Freud, that most eloquent of gastronomes, plans to cel-



brate his 70th birthday in style this Saturday with a train full of 250 friends heading to a mystery destination. The only due for his retinue is the unusual but succinct instruction on the invitation: bring binoculars.

Guests will include the likes of Melvyn Bragg, Jeremy Paxman and Charles Wilson, former editor of *The Times* and managing director of Mirror Group Newspapers. "We're told we'll be back at Paddington by midnight," says Wilson.

The eclectic bunch will be fuelled en route, not by the British Rail fare to which Freud so famously lent his culinary expertise, but by raspberry vodka and scones prepared by fellow traveller and chef Marco Pierre White. Who hands out the Alka-Seltzer on their return is not yet known.

● DOGS barking? Stereos blaring? No problem for the BBC sound archive. But the sound of couples noisily engaged in what comes naturally of a long winter night defeated the corporation's finest, presenting the makers of Radio 4's new environmental programme, *Dirty News*, with a problem as it sought to illustrate this vying form of noise pollution. Until, drawing a deep breath producer Jessica Mitchell bravely stepped up to the microphone.

Over the top

AS THE D-DAY anniversary approaches, Britain's most distinguished veterans are under attack once again. This time round, how-

ever, the enemy is the nation's literary editors, who are bombarding them with a barrage of D-Day books to review.

According to military publisher Leo Cooper, who has avoided the jambores, about 50 have been published so far this year, "all with the same photographs", three of which General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, a contributing editor for the recently published *The D-Day Encyclopedia*, has promised to review. A paratrooper in the First Airborne Division in 1944, he laments: "It has been a real flood. I just try not to do them one after the other."

Farrar-Hockley's encyclopedia is being reviewed by Field-Marshal Lord Carver, who is also reluctant to stick his head above the word processor for long. "I'm snowed under," he says.

Another veteran manfully soldiering on, is Field-Marshal Lord Bramall, a lieutenant in the King's Royal Rifle Corps during the landings. His workload from reviews is compounded by having a lot of friends who have written books about D-Day. "It's sometimes a bit of a bore, but I cannot turn down friends who ask me to write forewords for their books. My wife says I do too much. She's probably right, but it's a penalty of having been lucky in my career."



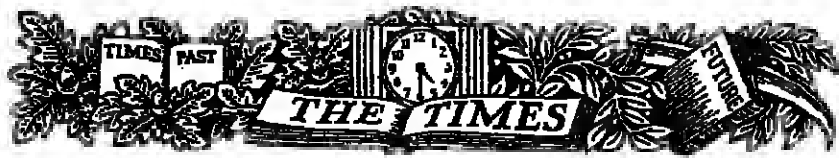
Kevin Costner, Richard Branson and Noel Edmonds

If the beard fits, cast it

NO SIGN of the throttle being eased on the sorry saga of Virgin Airline's dirty tricks row with British Airways. Marilyn Gregory, the journalist whose book *Dirty Tricks* rivalled Joan Collins in the non-movers about prospects for a movie.

Discussions, he insists, are at an early stage but Gregory has already turned his mind to casting the pivotal roles. Leo McKern, best known as the bibulous barrister, Rumpole of the Bailey, would make an admirable Lord King, he believes. "But I have already rejected Richard Branson's idea that he should be played by Kevin Costner," host Noel Edmonds.

Will Whitehorn, however, exhibits the sort of tact that keeps him in work as Branson's right-hand man. "Give Terence Stamp a beard and shy, retiring Whitehorn think should play himself? Oh, we've got to be talking Tom Cruise."



FRITTERED AWAY

The D-Day disarray is another humiliation for the Government

Unlike the event it is meant to commemorate, the programme of festivities to mark the 50th anniversary of D-Day this summer has been planned with a conspicuous lack of forethought. The comparison, however unfair, is hard to resist. Operation Overlord, in which one million Allied troops poured into occupied Europe in a single day, was probably the most impressive logistic exercise in the history of warfare. Half a century later, the manner in which key parts of the anniversary are being organised is pitiful.

The sensitivity of the event should have been apparent to ministers much earlier. Advance notice was given more than a year ago by the row over the prospective attendance of German representatives. In spite of the obvious lessons to be drawn from the fiasco of the 40th anniversary, there is little evidence of co-ordination or leadership. When the French government tried to deprive 200 veterans of hotel rooms they had booked more than two years ago, the response of the British Ministry of Defence was merely bland. This week, John Major has been warned by a daunting alliance of the veterans' associations and Dame Vera Lynn to give up plans for a light-hearted "family day" in Hyde Park on July 3. A group of parliamentarians, led by the Labour MP Peter Mandelson, have increased the pressure. The Prime Minister may now be regretting his remark when he launched the programme in the Imperial War Museum that the events might "unite the nation".

The charge that the Government is turning a sombre anniversary into a national festival in a ham-fisted attempt to improve its prospects in the European elections may be unfair. But the distinction drawn by veterans between commemoration and celebration is a fair one. VE-Day was a festive occasion in which civilians across Europe joyously celebrated their

deliverance from war and Nazism. The Normandy landings, in contrast, were a grave military undertaking which cost 3,000 lives on the first day and 37,000 in total. Victory in the war was far from certain in June 1944.

The formal royal events fit the spirit of the occasion. This was the original heart of the proposals which someone in government clearly thought insufficient. To suggest that D-Day's anniversary be marked with politically inspired spam-fritter frying, sandcastle competitions and a festive atmosphere betrays a poor knowledge of history as well as questionable taste. This point may be lost on the Government but it will not be lost on the public. It seems unlikely that many Britons will think it appropriate to mark a battle which claimed thousands of lives with a street party or a picnic. It takes more than ministerial whim to launch a national jamboree. The country will hardly be in a celebratory mood and those who lost loved ones will feel their grief all the more keenly in an atmosphere of contrived jollity.

Mr Major could salvage some dignity from the mire by postponing the Hyde Park event till next year's VE-Day anniversary. He should also concede that the Government's argument that the D-Day anniversary be a blend of "seriousness and fun" was an error of judgment. The more important point is that all these issues should have been resolved long ago. In particular, the obvious lack of consultation between officials and the groups which were most likely to be offended by poor management of the occasion is extraordinary. The D-Day anniversary could have been an opportunity for the Government to prove some competence and for Mr Major to justify his claim to be in touch with ordinary people. Instead, it has revealed flaws that have become all too familiar.

JUSTICE DELAYED

Touvier's conviction pays a long overdue debt to France's Jews

Half a century separates this week's conviction of Paul Touvier, the first Frenchman to be tried for crimes against humanity, and the June night when a young Jew sang the great lament from *Tosca* as he waited for death in a jail in Rillieux-la-Pape. He was one of seven Jews singled out on grounds of their race for execution on Touvier's orders, as a reprisal for the assassination by Resistance fighters of a Vichy official, President Mitterrand ill chose the moment last week to record his opinion that to try old men for crimes to which there are few witnesses still surviving "has hardly any meaning any more".

This view is widely shared among France's wartime generation and has been reflected in debates in Britain over the trial of war criminals. But for France, it is singularly inappropriate. It has been heard before: notably in 1977, when Marcel Ophüls's great documentary, *Le Chagrin et la Pitié*, was fiercely criticised for chronicling unpalatable truths about collaboration in wartime France; and again in 1987, with the trial of Klaus Barbie in Lyons.

One part of the counter case is provided by Hubert de Toulain, the state advocate-general in the Touvier case. A lawyer who qualified in the 1960s, he told the court that it had come as a revelation to him that the Vichy regime, in whose militia Touvier served, had any record of anti-Semitism, or that it had passed anti-Jewish laws as early as 1940. French school textbooks began to face the reality of collaboration between Vichy and the Nazis only in the 1980s, and there has been still greater reluctance to discuss the extent of French complicity in the deportation of 75,000 Jews to Nazi concentration camps.

Touvier's advanced age is in itself a rebuke to the President's claim that France should now put the past behind it. He is living proof of the French establishment's modesty about probing the wartime record. Since his postwar conviction for war crimes,

he has spent most of his life in the shelter of the Catholic church, marrying and bringing up a family in hiding. Even though he had escaped the death sentence under these first charges only by fleeing justice, he was pardoned by Georges Pompidou in 1972 and promptly emerged from hiding. It is 15 years since he was again charged, this time for crimes against humanity; again, he was able to elude arrest until he was found in a priory in Nice in 1989. The civil plaintiffs who filed this unprecedented suit had to fight to reverse the verdict of a Paris court in 1992 that there was no case, because Marshal Pétain could not be regarded as an accomplice to the Nazis' "final solution".

There remained the argument that although Touvier was personally visited in Lyons by Pétain to be congratulated for his zeal, he was only a minor official. But rank has no bearing on the case. These were no minor crimes; and a man whose recent diaries reveal him to be an unrepentant anti-Semite and who told police that he regretted nothing as they arrested him in 1989 is ill-placed to plead duress.

Bigger fish have escaped the net, however. There is continued delay in bringing to trial Maurice Papon, a senior administrator in the Bordeaux region during the war, who went on to a brilliant career as Paris police chief, Gaullist party treasurer and government minister under President Giscard d'Estaing. A decade ago, he was also charged with crimes against humanity, for his alleged involvement in the deportation of 1,690 Jews. The treatment of his case has been described in *Le Monde* as "judicial burial". Mitterrand may be right that old men forget. But so long as the Papon case remains outstanding, men of his generation and opinion are vulnerable to the charge of wilful amnesia. French pride and honour lie not in throwing a veil over the past, but in the sober conclusions reached in Versailles this week by a French jury, many of whose members were too young to rely on memory.

DARWIN'S TORTOISES

Is it, sadly, to be survival of the air-lifted?

Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindles. The island of Isabela, in the Galapagos archipelago, is aflame. Charles Darwin's gentle tortoises, of ample girth and guileless, are in danger.

The islands — serene outcrops of dotted chocolate, set in the swirling Pacific — were Darwin's laboratory. There, amid tortoises and finches, Darwin's personal evolution from putative country parson to biological rationalist was completed. Thousands of *Beagle*-days from Cambridge, he became convinced of the fact of evolutionary change, uncaging a polemic that made him the Galileo of his time. "I have no patience whatever with these gorilla dignifications of humanity," thundered Thomas Carlyle. But to most of us today, he is best regarded as a mighty intellectual liberator.

Darwin was not without his faults: he confessed, in his autobiography, to finding Shakespeare dull and nauseating. But his views on the Galapagos, like those on the Book of Genesis, were impeccable. It is an enchanting place which works its soothing hex on the creatures that live there: even the sharks are innocuous, and welcome the chance to swim with — rather than breakfast on — other animals. There have never been predators on the land, giving the islands —

with exquisite irony — a certain biblical quality. And the giant tortoise — revered by zoologists and amateurs alike — is the most eloquent symbol of this Eden.

But there is man. The fire which threatens to incinerate hundreds of tortoises was started not by the elements, let alone by the tortoises themselves, but by humans who have settled there after Darwin's day. The case for intervention — which is questioned in American nature reserves for reasons based in the process of natural causation and renewal — is here unanswerable. Ecuador, a developing country without the infrastructure to deal with a disaster of this magnitude, is in urgent need of assistance. If fire-fighting planes do not arrive soon, there are contingency plans to rescue the endangered tortoises by airlifting them to safety.

Thought should be given by the legislators in Quito to amending the Constitution of Ecuador, which entitles any citizen to settle in any part of the country as of right. Ought this right to extend to the unique ecosystem of the Galapagos? Unchecked immigration from the mainland threatens to undermine the country's prudent, and conservationist, tourist policy. Darwin's tortoises, and their companions on the Enchanted Isles, deserve no less than the most meticulous attention.

Key decision on saving energy

From Ms Sally Cavanagh and others

Sir, On April 22, when the Energy Conservation Bill reaches its report stage in the Commons, the Government could make a key decision which would both help Britain to meet its environmental targets and soften the impact of VAT on domestic fuel. We urge the Government to support the Bill in its entirety.

If successful, the Bill will require local authorities to gather information about the energy efficiency of the UK housing stock. That information is crucial in assessing how reductions in carbon dioxide emissions can best be achieved.

Despite massive cross-party support for the Bill, and support from a wide range of organisations, the Government is expected to wreck it with no fewer than 216 amendments. The most destructive one proposed seeks to reduce the "duties" of the local authorities to mere "discretionary" powers. The effect of this on the Bill would be to make it redundant.

The Government has an outstanding opportunity to act positively this Friday and to demonstrate that it is seriously committed to improving Britain's environment.

Yours sincerely,
SALLY CAVANAGH
(Climate Action Network UK),
TIM CORDY (The Wildlife Trusts),
TOM CROSSETT (National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection),
JULIE HILL (Green Alliance),
ROBIN PELLEW (WWF UK),
FIONA REYNOLDS (Council for the Protection of Rural England),
CHRIS ROSE (Greenpeace),
CHARLES SECURETT (Friends of the Earth),
ANDREW WARREN (Association for the Conservation of Energy),
BARBARA YOUNG (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds),
Climate Action Network UK,
21 Tower Street, WC2,
April 18.

From Professor P. F. Smith

Sir, It is estimated that the average cost to a local authority of implementing Alan Beith's Energy Conservation Bill would be £50,000 — a minimal sum compared with the long-term benefits to be gained from this essential first step in gathering the information for a national domestic thermal upgrading programme.

Such a programme would yield a substantial net benefit, not least in terms of avoided benefit claims and health service costs. It is also estimated that one new job is created for every £20,000 spent on upgrading domestic property.

Under present arcane PSBR rules costs and benefits cannot be rolled into a single equation. The cost of an upgrading programme would be a dead weight on the PSBR, and one suspects that the Government is nervous about the cost implications which the evidence of such a survey would reveal.

In its "sustainable development" strategy, the Government commits itself to work "with the construction industry to encourage various ways of reducing the environmental impact of buildings". This Bill provides an opportunity for it to demonstrate its commitment to that undertaking at low cost.

Yours faithfully,
P. F. SMITH
(Chairman, Environment and Energy Committee,
Royal Institute of British Architects),
Massey's Folly, Church Road,
Upper Farringdon, Hampshire,
April 14.

Tories in Europe

From Lord Tebbit, CH

Sir, I note Mr Brendan Donnelly (letter, April 18), a prospective Conservative candidate for the European Parliament, regards the Foreign Office description of British Conservative MEPs as members of the European People's Party as "a drafting lapse".

To what kind of error does he attribute the lapse in the newly published paper, *A European Currency — On Track For 1999*, by Mr Ben Patterson, MEP, wherein he describes 12 of his Conservative colleagues as "members of the European People's Party British Section"?

Is that a draft lapse rather than a draft lapse?

Yours faithfully,
TEBBIT,
House of Lords,
April 18.

Cool comfort

From Dr K. F. Mole

Sir, Cooling helps to dull post-shingles pain (Body and Mind, April 19). Flexible sleeves (such as those designed to cool bottles of wine), having had a spell in the fridge or freezer and then been wrapped in a towel, could shape themselves nicely to the part of the body afflicted. They would be easier to apply than ice cubes in plastic bags.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH MOLE,
The School, Buckhorn Weston,
Gillingham, Dorset,
April 19.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Getting there by coach and train

From Mr Barry S. Doe

Sir, Since, as Matthew Parris admits in his piece on coach travel ("The secret travellers", April 13), the Government has stopped collecting separate data on coach journeys, how does he know that coaches are so well used?

Of course more people travel by coach and bus than by rail — that always was the case and reflects the millions of local town journeys undertaken daily. Quoting the unique, short-distance case of Oxford/London by coach hardly proves his point.

For proof that coach is not a dominant mode of long-distance transport one need only consider a few points. First, even with lower fares, few coach operators have more than one arrival in London before 10am on a given route. If that coach is full it equates to no more than 75 people — about one seventh of the capacity of a single train, at least a dozen of which are likely to have arrived by 10am on the same route.

Then look at the number of places that have minimal coach services, such as London to York, with three a day compared with 25 trains. Hundreds of places in Britain have a railway station but no coach service at all.

Only a combination of bus and rail reaches all parts of Britain. The coach industry is merely taking pickings from rail trunk routes and has no interest in emulating the network offered by the railways.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY S. DOE,
25 Newmorton Road, Moordown,
Bournemouth, Dorset,
April 13.

From Mr David Spaven

Sir, Yes, Matthew Parris, coach travel receives no operating subsidy from government, but neither does its main rail competitor, InterCity — which has made a profit every year since 1988.

InterCity's imaginative marketing and use of discount fares have attracted growing numbers of young people, despite cut-throat competition from express coaches, which routinely ignore speed limits in their quest to cut costs and win new business. No rail passenger has been killed in a collision since July 1991 (letter, April 4), and occupants of coaches are in practice more likely to be injured in transit than are train travellers.

Comparisons of the environmental efficiency per passenger mile of coach and rail are complicated by assumptions about the proportion of seats actually occupied.

However, an authoritative research review, *Wrong Side of the Tracks?* (Transport and Environmental Studies, 1991), has concluded that electric trains on average contribute significantly less in emissions of carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons per passenger mile than do buses or coaches (including the primary pollution at power stations). In the case of nitrogen oxides, they contribute marginally

more than buses or coaches, but produce less than half the emissions per passenger mile of cars and taxis.

The coach plays an important role in Britain's transport system, albeit largely for leisure travel; but in the long term it is our safe and segregated rail system which offers by far the greatest potential for technological advance and environmentally friendly travel.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SPAVEN,
Morar, Glenburn Drive,
Kilmacolin, Renfrewshire,
April 19.

From Professor Geoffrey Warner

Sir, Trains are faster and coaches slower than Mr Parris implies. Even between Oxford and London, where the coach benefits from a more direct route and a long stretch of motorway, fast trains do the journey in an hour, while one of the two coach companies refers to admits that the average journey time is "approximately 100 minutes" and ominously warns intending passengers that "during busy periods [they should] allow more time due to road congestion". On longer journeys the time differential is likely to be even more in favour of the train.

Many people find that whereas they can read while travelling on a train, they become travel-sick if they try to do so on a coach, and seating on coaches seems to be based on the curious assumption that people of above average height do not travel. Tall people find themselves crunched up in uncomfortable positions and cannot of course get up to stretch their legs.

Yours faithfully,
G. WARNER,
19 Wensum Drive,
Didcot, Oxfordshire,
April 13.

From Mrs Yvonne Beaumont

Sir, Unless road congestion can be reduced, Matthew Parris's euphoric view of the superiority of coach travel over trains is just pie in the sky. As a regular traveller on the route he cites, I travelled last week on a coach leaving Oxford for London at 10am, well past the rush-hour peak.

The bus was full, so we sped past queues on the route through Oxford without stopping. Eleven miles from London, we ground to a halt and frustratingly inched our way into Victoria after two and a quarter hours.

Coaches are indeed cheap, flexible and reliable, but traffic volumes defeat them and no politician has so far put forward a feasible plan to control congestion. The only sane solution would be for British Rail to tap at least part of this pent-up demand by competing with lower fares.

Yours faithfully,
Y. BEAUMONT,
1 Meriden, Foxcombe Road,
Boars Hill, Oxford,
April 13.

Roads under repair

From Mr Martin A. Thorp

Sir, Steven Norris, the minister (letter, April 19), explains differences in the speed with which road problems are dealt with in America and in this country. Surely the fundamental issue is one of resources.

On a visit to Florida last year I witnessed a new slip road at a dual carriageway junction being constructed from scratch in five days. Negotiating a four-mile stretch of roadworks on the M25 recently I had nothing better to do for the half-hour or so but to count the workforce, all eight of them.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN THORP,
Finch Green,
Chiddington Heath,
Edenbridge, Kent,
April 20.

Horses for courses

From Dr John Coker

Sir, Is not the Home Secretary's appointment of a sailor to the post of Prisons Ombudsman (report, April 20) as inappropriate as appointing a retired prison official to run a battleship?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN COKER,
(Deputy Chief Probation Officer,
Hampshire, 1963-1988),
31 Kings Road,
Alton, Hampshire,
April 20.

Defaulting solicitors

From Mr John Briggs

Sir, Not long ago a young gentleman walked into my law office for advice. He had been convicted of stealing petrol by siphoning it from a motor vehicle. Subsequently he had joined the Army and was dismissed from the military police when his undisclosed conviction became known.

The question put to me was, should he tell the Law Society of his conviction before taking his final examination, for which he was studying?

This story goes far in explaining why the Law Society is faced with a £31 million payment to client victims this year (report, April 19). When I took exams in 1956 it was necessary to be vetted thoroughly, but now anyone can enter the profession who pass-

es the exams and the result is painfully obvious. As soon as there is £1 million in the client account off they go!

No one dares to complain about the lax admissions policy because they will be accused of some form of discrimination. However, unless solicitors are required to put up some form of bond individually, or the Law Society guarantee is removed, the defaulters will drag the whole profession into a pit as deep as the National Health Service. The difference is that the Government, which has recently severely damaged the profession in many fields, will not bail us out.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BRIGGS,
Owen & Briggs,
(Solicitors and notary public),
13 Railway Street,
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire

Councillors' count in shire England

From the Chairman of the Local Government Commission for England

Sir, Professors G. W. Jones and J. Stewart (letter, April 13) have mistaken the views of the local government commission about the appropriate levels of democratic representation in the new unitary authorities.

The commission has based its ratio of one councillor for every 4,000 residents on the reality of the present levels of representation in metropolitan districts — the only unitary authorities in England outside London. (County councils, which account for 85 per cent of all net revenue expenditure by local authorities in shire England, have one councillor for some 10,000 residents.)

Of course, we recognise that the number of councillors should reflect the geography and socio-economic characteristics of individual review areas; that is why we have recommended different levels of representation in different areas. The ratio of around 4,000:1 is the average we expect to emerge.

We must not discount the potential contribution of 75,000 people in England and Wales serving on 9,000 local (town and parish) councils. A ratio of one local councillor for every 180 people is healthy by any international standards. The challenge is to evolve a worthwhile role for local councils as building blocks in the structure of local government in shire England.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BANHAM,
Chairman, Local Government Commission for England,
Dolphyn Court, 30-31 Great Turnstile,
Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC1,
April 14.

How Sky was born

From the Chief Executive of News International

Sir, In his otherwise excellent Fleming Memorial lecture (Media and Marketing, April 20), Michael Green, chairman of ITN and Carlton TV, claims that "successive British governments" conceded "News International a scale of influence and reach which they have consistently denied to anyone else".

This is simply not true. In the 1990 Broadcasting Act, the British Government sensibly allowed a window of opportunity for anyone not currently owning a terrestrial franchise to get involved in satellite television.

That only two groups did so in the early development stages is sad, particularly so for News International, since we nearly bankrupted the company with our efforts to pursue this new medium, providing, with our fellow investors in BSkyB, thousands of new jobs on the way. Thanks to this foresight, the UK now leads the world in satellite television development.

Mr Green repeats claims for "a level playing field for the rest of the media". There has never been a level playing field in British media. Mr Green's terrestrial television company is given network access to 23 million television homes on day one of its franchise.

In 1989 Sky was given access to not a single television home on day one of its licence; it had to go out and sell a dish to every viewer before anyone could see its programmes (or, at the moment, any of the other 32 satellite channels' programmes). Unlike terrestrial television, these satellite channels are mostly paid for — like books or newspapers — by viewers who make a considered decision to purchase them.

Mr Green is not allowed to own more than 20 per cent of a satellite channel because he owns one of the terrestrial government-granted geographical monopolies. News International is not allowed to own more than 20 per cent of a terrestrial channel because it owns national newspapers (including *The Times*) and has satellite television channels.

I concede that there was some kind of logic in this in the days of spectrum scarcity, even if I agree wholeheartedly with Mr Green that technology and the need to expand to fight our corner in the competitive landscape of tomorrow's global media now render restrictions largely obsolete.

Yours sincerely,
GUS FISCHER,
Chief Executive,
News International plc,
PO Box 495,
Virginia Street, EL,
April 20.

Watch it

From Mr P. M. B. Savage

Sir, Perhaps the watchdog for skaters (letters, April 13, 16, 20) could be called Officer?

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK SAVAGE,
Aynhoe Park,
Near Banbury, Oxfordshire,
April 17.

From Mr Douglas Lowndes

Sir, ... and what about Offcolour for those ghastly Bennett people?

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS LOWNDES,
1 Colville Court,
Great Missenden,
Buckinghamshire,
April 16.

Improving life: medical and educational services contribute to industry's success in exports, technology and the environment

The very best of British

Established in 1966, the Queen's Awards recognise significant achievements, Derek Harris writes

The Queen's Awards for export achievement this year have reached a record 139. They underline a year of strong export performance by a diverse range of British industry and commercial services.

Among the export winners is the private patients unit at London's Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. Academic winners include two London institutions, Imperial College and Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London.

Invisible earners such as insurance companies and other financial service providers did well, accounting for a fifth of the export awards.

The number of export awards is the highest since the Queen's Awards were established in 1966. Technology achievement awards took a tumble. The number of applications slumped 14 per cent to 303 and only 18 awards were made, the lowest since 1981. In the 1980s it was common for about 40 technology awards to be given out. In 1990, 49 were handed out, leaving this year's technology awards at a level not seen since the 1970s.

This may point to the 1980s surge in innovation being followed by more modest efforts. However, it is doubtful that the recession is to blame. Technological innovation often takes a lead time of five years or more before results of research are seen.

Environment achievement awards are in their second year but a 45 per cent drop in applications is worrying. Last year, 12 firms won awards but this year there are only eight. The number of awards is proportionate to the number of applications: 133 this year compared to 240 last year.

It is possible that more people applied last year because it was the award's

first year. Even so, a minimum of 150 applications was anticipated, making the final amount disappointing.

The total of 165 awards matches last year's record-setting total for the number of Queen's Awards given out in one year. But in 1992 technology awards were much stronger than this year while this year 12 more export awards were given out than last year.

Most export awards went to pharmaceutical, telecommunication, electrical and electronic equipment, and transport sectors of industry.

Although no business has yet managed a triple win, Staffordshire's JCB Group, best known for excavation machinery, wins both an export and technological award this year. The exports winner is JCB Hydrapower which makes small hydraulic excavators for use in confined spaces and a range of smaller hand-held tools. JCB has designed mini excavators especially for the EC market but sales have been extended to other European countries, Africa, the Middle East and South America.

The backhoe-loader division of JCB Bamford Excavators, part of the JCB Group, wins an award for technological achievement for its development of an advanced backhoe loader for use in a harsh climate and difficult terrain.

The General Electric Company (GEC) is involved in two export awards won by two Anglo-French joint ventures. One award went to GEC Alsthom T & D Protection and Control, part of the GEC Alsthom Group, owned jointly by GEC and France's Alcatel Alsthom. The other went to the UK arm of Matra Marconi Space, also in the joint ownership of GEC and France's Matra Defence.

Over the years, GEC has



THE private patients unit of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, which treats severely ill children from around the world, wins an export achievement award, Derek Harris writes. The unit's earnings flow from nearly 60 countries with many of the children sponsored through their own government's health programme.

Help to cure the world's children

The 34-bed unit treated more than 2,000 children last year, often for complex conditions such as rare metabolic disorders, cardiac surgery or

oncology treatment. More than half the children came from Middle East countries like the Gulf states while 12 per cent were from Greece and Cyprus. Children also come from as far away as Australia, Russia, America, South Africa, Chile and Sri Lanka. Usually about 10 per cent of children treated in the unit are British.

earned many Queen's Awards for exports. So has ICI, especially through its pharmaceuticals division. This year that division, demerged from ICI last year as Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, collects an exports award.

The largest employer featured in the awards was Nestlé UK, part of the Swiss food group of that name. From 25 factories in the United Kingdom it produces coffee, confectionery, milk products and frozen food which goes to more than 100 countries.

The British arms of Japanese car makers Nissan and Honda, also picked up awards. Nissan has now won three of them. Another went to Williams Grand Prix Engineering for its efforts in selling advertising and promotional space on racing cars.

The smallest of the successful exporters, and smallest of all award winners was Mondbury, based in London's Commercial Road in the East End. Mondbury supplies dresses and skirts and has only four employees. Estab-

lished in 1980 it sells to customers in the EC and has doubled its exports in three years, exporting more than three quarters of total sales.

The second smallest company, Tritech International, produces acoustic, mechanical and electrical products for professional undersea use. Based near Aberdeen in Scotland, it employs only six people.

Technical innovation, cost-effectiveness and continuous product development have helped it to succeed in markets

dominated by Norwegian, Canadian and American competitors. Now Tritech International takes special pride in regularly exporting compact electronic systems to Japan.

Smaller companies have traditionally done well in the awards. Those with fewer than 200 employees accounted for 56 per cent of this year's awards compared with an average in the past of at least 60 per cent. Really small businesses, with fewer than 50 employees, accounted for 24 per cent of awards.

Learning to get on with others

Overseas students and research grants bring universities export earnings

Two London colleges, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine and London University's Queen Mary and Westfield College, have won the export award. Both produce foreign earnings for Britain through fees charged to overseas students and through research grants and contracts from overseas companies, institutions and governments.

About a third of the 5,300 students at the Imperial College are from abroad, recruited from more than 100 countries mainly in the Far East, the Americas and the Continent. The success rate of foreign students is high.

For example, 18 of the 21 Singaporean students graduating last year gained first class honours.

Queen Mary was founded in the 19th century and is the fourth largest constituent of the University of London. It has seven faculties engaged in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and research in arts, engineering, law, medicine, science and social sciences. The college has more than 6,000 students, with a quarter from overseas. About 75 per cent of overseas earnings comes from tuition fees and 25 per cent from research contracts.

Scotland also boasts two winners. Research and development, consultancy and training services are marketed by Unived Technologies, the commercial arm of Edinburgh University that was set up ten years ago. Information technology is the most successful research area, but contracts spread over the faculties of science and engineering, medicine, veterinary medicine, arts, social sciences and law have been negotiated in

the European Union. Major healthcare contracts have been negotiated with America and Japan.

The Esme Fairbairn Research Centre, established 20 years ago to offer senior management courses, operates as a commercial venture under the aegis of Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. It produces and distributes master of business administration degree texts and software and arranges for exams to be held.

The centre provides advanced management education to those who cannot afford a conventional programme. No assignments are returned to the university and there is no provision for tutorials but authors of material have been hand-picked in the UK, America and the Continent.

Since its introduction in October 1990, when just 100 brave

souls took up the challenge, the MBA distance learning programme has attracted 8,000 students from 110 countries. It aims to have 10,000 students at any one time with 2,000 graduating each year, making the centre virtually a university in itself.

The small, independent University of Buckingham was founded in 1976 and offers a range of degrees mainly in law, business, science and the humanities. More than half its earnings come from overseas students' fees. The university also gains some overseas earnings from research grants. It does not receive direct government funding. Sir Richard Luce, the vice-chancellor, said: "British students benefit from this multicultural atmosphere and the alumni have an extensive global network."

RODNEY HOBSON

Queen's Award for giving British industry a big lift.

British Aerospace has won the Queen's Award to Industry for Technology for their revolutionary common wing design for the Airbus A330 and A340.

Producing an effectively identical wing for two aircraft with substantially different characteristics - the A330 has two wing mounted engines, the A340 has four - demonstrates British Aerospace's world leadership in aerostructures technology.



1994

British Aerospace's design teams embraced innovative methods of Computer Aided Design processes and super computer modelling in shaping the largest wing produced in Europe. One hundred feet long but with components accurate to thousandths of an inch.

The result - the world's most aerodynamically and structurally efficient wing, designed and built by British Aerospace.



British Aerospace Plc, Warwick House, Farnborough Aerospace Centre, P.O. Box 87, Hampshire, GU14 6YU. Tel: 0252 373232 Fax: 0252 383000

Food fresh from the shelf

The aerospace industry has flown into the technology awards on a wing and a blade.

British Aerospace Airbus has made a wing that fits both the A330 and the A340 airbuses. It is 100 feet long but contains component parts machined to accuracies of a thousandth of an inch. The challenge has been to optimise strength and stiffness without adding weight and to place the engine where it can power both aircraft without losing stability. Aluminium lithium alloys are used in the manufacture of the wings and a swinging bogie undercarriage leg allows the undercarriage to be closer to the aircraft body.

The development of a composite blade for the Lynx helicopter has brought a joint award for the Aircraft Systems Sector of the Defence Research Agency at Farnborough, Hampshire, and Westland Helicopters at Yeovil, Somerset.

The composite material is more easily formed than metal into a shape that gives optimum aerodynamics. The tips of each blade are turned downwards to direct air turbulence out of the path of the following blade. The blade is protected from corrosion by replaceable titanium and nickel shields.

A joint award has also been made to EA Technology and the liquid foods division of APV Baker. They have produced the ohmic heating alternative to freezing and chilling ready-made meals and sterilising canned food. It involves passing a main electric current through food, generating heat uniformly through the whole recipe. The principle is similar to the wire in an electric fire. The advantage is that large quantities of food that are poor conductors of heat are cooked thoroughly and evenly.

The idea surfaced in 1978 but demanded exhaustive re-

New helicopter blades and an efficient way of heating food are rewarded for their innovation



The Husky FS/2 can withstand rough outdoor conditions

search into insulating food from the steel pipe carrying the current, selecting the correct temperature and producing suitable material for the electrodes.

Dr Stuart Exell, managing director of EA Technology, said: "The benefits of ohmic heating enjoyed by the manufacturer and the consumer include the elimination of costly refrigeration and temperature control. Restrictions on geographical distribution disappear and new worldwide market opportunities open up. Cold stores and chilled cabinets are no longer required, food products can be stored at home on the shelf and not in the fridge or freezer." Export orders have

been received for 12 ohmic heating installations. Two quite different handheld computers launched in

1991 have won technology awards.

Pison, the pocket computers maker that won an export award in 1990, appears this time for its series 3 range. The four models are priced from £150 to £330.

The series was designed specifically to fit pockets rather than be a scaled down version of a desktop personal computer. The challenge was to provide sufficient and efficient computing power with limited hardware. Initial production of 4,000 computers a month has been stepped up to 20,000 and last year total sales including software and peripherals reached £22.1 million.

Husky Computers has won the award for its Husky FS/2 which is particularly popular with meter readers. Andrew Faulkner, managing director, said: "The computer's exceptionally lightweight, rugged construction has the strength to withstand the roughest outdoor conditions as it is fully sealed against damp, dust and accidental immersion."

IBM United Kingdom joins the award winners with its IBM 0681 disk drive with a storage of one gigabyte. Its speed has been increased from 3,600 to 5,000 revolutions per minute.

RODNEY HOBSON



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All the 1994 award winners



THE following companies and organisations have been granted the Queen's Award for Export Achievement 1994:

A B S Electronics, Bangor, co. Down, Northern Ireland: electronic card access and control systems.
Abbott Laboratories, Queenborough, Kent: pharmaceuticals and healthcare products.
Alan Group, Horsham, West Sussex: mould tools and progression dies.
Alifab, Woking, Surrey: special structures.
Allied Distillers, Dumbarton, Dumbartonshire, Scotland: Scotch whisky.
Anderson Group, Motherwell, Lanarkshire, Scotland: mining equipment.
Applied Implant Technology, Horsham, West Sussex: semiconductor equipment.
Audio Processing Technology, Belfast, Northern Ireland: audio equipment.
J Barbour and Sons, South Shields, Tyne and Wear: oil-cotton clothing and bought-in accessories.
Bechtel, London W6: engineering and construction contractors.
Bivator Pipes, Chesterfield, Derbyshire: iron pipeline systems.
Boas Machine Company, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear: electronic textile machinery.
Brewing Products (UK), Kirkcaldy, West Lothian, Scotland: home brewing products and malt extracts.
Bridon Wire, Carr Hill, Doncaster, South Yorkshire: steel wires and strands.
John Brown Engineering, Clydebank, Dumbartonshire, Scotland: industrial gas turbines.
Burton's Gold Medal Biscuits, Edinburgh, Scotland: biscuits and confectionery.
CRP Marine, Skelmisdale, Lancashire: subsea and surface buoys.

Cable and Wireless, London WC1: telecommunications services.
Camtex Fabrics, Workington, Cumbria: nonwoven linings for footwear.
Centurion Furniture, Preston, Lancashire: leather upholstered three-piece suits.
Cherry Valley Farms, Rothwell, Lincolnshire: frozen duck, by-products and duck breeding stock.
Ciba Pigments (a division of Ciba-Geigy), Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland: organic pigments.
The Cobb Breeding Company, Chelmsford, Essex: broiler breeding stock.
Compasser Carroll Holdings, Skelmersdale, Lancashire: toiletries and fragrances.
Corin Medical, Cirencester, Gloucestershire: orthopaedic devices.
Coulter Electronics, Luton, Bedfordshire: biomedical and particle sizing electronic equipment.
Crossbow Optical, Craigavon, co. Armagh, Northern Ireland: ophthalmic lenses and spectacle frames.
Crowson Fabrics, Uckfield, Sussex: furnishing fabrics, wallpapers and home furnishings.
Cruachan, Glasgow, Scotland: instruments and reagents for DNA synthesis.
Cardworth International Machine Tools, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands: machine tools.
Davy McKee (Sheffield), Ashlow Guides Division, Sheffield, South Yorkshire: rolling mill guide equipment for rod, bar and section mills.
Thomas De La Rue & Co., Security Print (UK), Dunstable, Bedfordshire: passports, ID documents, bearer securities and cheques.
Deritend Precision Castings, Droitwich Spa, Worcester, Worcestershire: precision castings.
Denbar & Cook Machine Tools, Aston, Birmingham, West Midlands: machine tools.
EMI Records UK (EMI), London W1: sale and licensing of recorded music.
Edine, Marnborough, Essex: malt products.
Elite Optics, Llanstrisant, Mid Glamorgan, Wales: overhead projectors and visual aid equipment.
Environmental Resources, London W1: environmental consulting services.



SUNSEEKER International, the family-run business that has been building power boats at Poole, Dorset, for more than 30 years, wins its third Queen's

Award for export achievement, writes Derek Harris. The company, whose managing director is Robert Braithwaite, above, sells almost all its motor

cruisers abroad. Last year, it sold more than 200 and sales stood at nearly £39 million in 1993, a rise of 22 per cent on the previous year.

The Essex Fairbairn Research Centre, Riccarton, Edinburgh, Scotland: MBA distance learning courses.
Fibre Techniques, Holywell, Cwyl, Wales: converted ceramic fibre products.
Fine Fragrances and Cosmetics, Hampton, Middlesex: toiletries and cosmetics.
Finesse, London W1: ladies' separates.
FormFlo, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire: cold rolled metal components.
GEC ALSTHOM T&D Protection & Control, Stafford, Staffordshire: protective relays and systems.
Gamecore Cartridge, Hull, Humberside: sporting ammunition.
Genzyme, Haverhill, Suffolk: diagnostic enzymes and substrates, pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

Graff Diamonds, London W1: diamonds and gem-set jewellery.
Honda Motor Europe, Reading, Berkshire: motor vehicles.
Horton Kirby Paper Mills, Hartford, Kent: wallpapers.
Innor Engineering, Brixworth, Northamptonshire: motor racing engines.
Imperial College of Science, Technology & Medicine, London SW7: teaching and research.
Insignia Solutions, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire: computer software.
International Banking Information Systems, London WC2: computer software consultancy and training.
International Mining Consultants, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire: consultants to the mining industry.
International Oil Insurers, London EC3: insurance.
Inveresk Research International, Tranent, East Lothian, Scotland: scientific contract research.
Jones Valves - Division of Alexander Controls, Birmingham, West Midlands: instrumentation valves.
JCB Hydrapower, Rugeley, Staffordshire: hydraulic excavators.
Johnson & Higgins Holdings, London EC3: insurance and reinsurance broking.
James Johnston, U & Johnston of Elgin, Elgin, Morayshire, Scotland: cashmere and woolen goods and fabrics.
K S Process Engineering, U & Britannia Soap Machinery, Newton Abbot, Devon: machinery for the manufacture of soap.
Kenwood Appliances, Havant, Hampshire: small electrical household appliances.
LFH Fitness, London EC3: insurance brokers.
Lasalle Engineering Products Division, Inverurie, Aberdeen-shire, Scotland: control line and cable protectors.
Loch Fyne Oysters, Cairdow, Argyll, Scotland: smoked salmon, other seafood and fish and fresh oysters.
Lombard Risk Systems, London

television programmes.
MJS Scientific, Portchester, Hampshire: contact lenses.
Macphie Export (Division of Macphie of Glenberrie), Strathaven, Kincardineshire, Scotland: bakery concentrates and mixes.
Madge Networks, Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire: local area networking products.
Marathon Belting, Rochdale, Lancashire: woven industrial belting.
Mater Marconi Space UK, Portsmouth, Hampshire: electronic equipment for the space industry.
McCormick (UK) Food Service Division, Paisley, Renfrewshire: sauces, salad dressings and proprietary flavour products.
McKee Food Services, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire: frozen hamburgers and sausageburgers.
Memo, Maidenhead, Berkshire: safety systems for lift doors.
Mensbury, London E1: dresses and skirts.
Munradirect Industrial Generators, Loughborough, Leicestershire: generating sets.
Neale UK, Croydon, Surrey: confectionery, milk products and other foods.
Newport Components, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire: electronic components.
Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK), Sunderland, Tyne and Wear: motor vehicles.
Northbrook Laboratories, Newry, Co. Down, Northern Ireland: veterinary pharmaceutical products.
Norfolk, Castletown, Caithness, Scotland: chest freezers and chillers/cookers.
Navecastra Laboratories, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne and Wear: immunodiagnostic reagents.
Ove Arup Partnership, London W1: consulting engineers.
PBT International, Chilcompton, Bath, Avon: electronic imaging materials.
PFE International, Loughton, Essex: automotive mailing systems and forms handling equipment.
Parker Plant, Leicester, Leicestershire: crushing and screening

equipment and asphalt plant for road construction.
Phillips Telecom - Private Mobile Radio Paging Business, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire: radio pagers.
Photon Controls, Arundel, West Sussex: fire detection and control systems.
Portica, Hythe, Kent: single-use plastic medical devices.
Premier Hazard Systems (UK), Yeovil, Somerset: vehicle mounted emergency warning equipment.
Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, London E1: teaching and research.
R S Components, Corby, Northamptonshire: electrical, electronic and mechanical components.
R T A Wine Rack Company, Fakenham, Norfolk: wine racks.
R W S Group, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire: technical and legal translation and information research.
Reesed Tolerance Rings (Division of Lilleshall Plastics and Engineering), Horfield, Bristol, Avon: spring steel fasteners.
Rosin Engineering, Stourbridge, West Midlands: drying, cooling and heating equipment for the chemical and food industries.
S C A Nutrition, Thirsk, North Yorkshire: piglet feeds.
Scientific Software Intercomp (UK), Egham, Surrey: computer software and consulting services.
Seacraft (Scotland), Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland: integrated circuits.
Serco Europe Division of Serco International, Southall, Middlesex: support services to space operations and research organisations.
Smith, Kline Beecham Pharmaceuticals International, Brentford, Middlesex: pharmaceuticals.
Snapp-Drape Europe, Leominster, Herefordshire: table skirting and conference cloths.
Snell & Wilentz, Peterfield, Hampshire: television standards converters.
Softel, Reading, Berkshire: talent originating equipment.
Sperrin Metal Products, Draperstown, co. Londonderry, Northern Ireland: steel storage equipment.
Stannak Stairlifts, Andover, Hampshire: electrically powered stairlifts.
Stirling Cooke Insurance Brokers, London EC3: insurance brokers.

Teasy Stone Associates U & Tony Stone Images, London NW1: stock photographs.
Sumate Medical, Brierley Hill, West Midlands: electric wheelchairs, scooters and lifts.
Sunseeker International (Boats), Poole, Dorset: luxury powerboats.
Joseph Sykes Brothers, Lindley, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire: speciality steel wire.
Taylor & Francis, London WC1: publishers of books and journals.
Technic Group, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire: retreaded car and light van tyres.
Tensator, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire: constant force springs.
Audy Thornton Architectural Antiques, Eiland, West Yorkshire: reproduction decorative and antiques.
Trans Euro, London NW10: removals, storage and freight forwarding.
Traveo, London N1: incoming tour operators.
Ultech International, Kingswells, Aberdeen, Scotland: subsea equipment.
United Distillers, Edinburgh, Scotland: Scotch whisky and gin.
United Technologies, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland: research and development.
The University of Buckingham, Buckingham, Buckinghamshire: degree programmes.
W Viaton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk: airborne electronic equipment.
WBB Devon Clays, Newton Abbot, Devon: ball and china clay.
Wade Furniture, Leeds, West Yorkshire: hand-built traditional English furniture.
Watkins Automation, Sandy, Bedfordshire: print finishing equipment.
Willett International, Corby, Northamptonshire: ink jet printers, inks and solvents.
Williams Grand Prix Engineering, Didcot, Oxfordshire: advertising and promotional space on formula one race cars.
FG Wilson (Engineering), Larne, co. Antrim, Northern Ireland: diesel generating sets and auxiliary equipment.
ZENECA Pharmaceuticals, Macclesfield, Cheshire: human use pharmaceuticals.
Zens Aluminium Products, Dudley, West Midlands: precision sand castings in aluminium and magnesium alloys.



Technological Achievement 1994:

APV Baker - Liquid Foods Division, Crawley, West Sussex: ohmic heating for the production of high quality ambient-stable food products.
Autotype International, Wantage, Oxfordshire: process for the manufacture of hard coated polyesters for electronic user interface.
British Aerospace Airbus, Bristol, Avon: common wing for the Airbus A330/A340 aircraft.
BT Laboratories Access Networks Division, Ipswich, Suffolk: blown



British Aerospace has a role in the Airbus's success

polypropylene yarn suitable for industrial/technical application.
Gooch and Hensage, Ilminster, Somerset: acousto-optic modulators.
Husky Computers, Coventry, West Midlands: Husky FS/2 rugged handheld computer.
IBM United Kingdom, Havant Division, Havant, Hampshire: IBM OS/2 high performance disk drive.
JCB Bamford Excavators, Backhoe Loader Division, Rotherham, Staffordshire: JCB CX Serpophus backhoe loader.
Kemira Polymers (A Division of Kemira), Stockport, Cheshire: polymer composites as protection materials for high security products.
Pison, London NW6: pocket computers.
Soudaronec, Fleet, Hampshire: seismic integrated positioning system for sub-sea surveying (SIRS).
Helicopters, Yeovil, Somerset: Lynx helicopter advanced composite main rotor blade.
fibres: optical fibre cable installation technique.
Chubb Research, Wolverhampton, West Midlands: polymer composites as protection materials for high security products.
ConvaTec, Deeside, Cwyl, Wales: Granuflex hydrocolloid moist-wound dressings.
Defence Research Agency, Aircraft Systems Sector, Farnborough, Hampshire: Lynx

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Helicopters, Yeovil, Somerset: Lynx helicopter advanced composite main rotor blade.



Environmental Achievement 1994:

Alida Recycling, Henon, Derbyshire: polythene waste recycling.
Bridgewater Paper, Elkemere Port, South Wirral, Cheshire: newsprint from recycled fibre.
Combined Power Systems, Ecles, Greater Manchester: computer controlled combined heat and power generators.
Dorman Diesels, Stafford, Staffordshire: low-emission gas engines.
MultiCore Soldiers, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire: "No Clean" soldering materials.
Seabait, Ashington, Northumberland: cultured ragworms for fishing bait.
Shaw, Son & Greenhalgh, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire: crushing and screening



Growing ragworms at Seabait

isolation valves for hazardous chemicals.
Vickers Electronics, Altrincham, Cheshire: synchronous burner controls.

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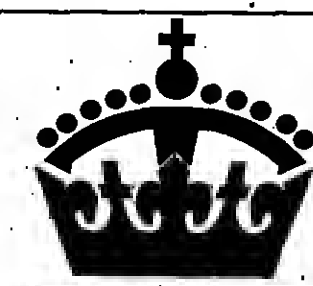
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Being kind to the world

The North scoops the 'green' category, writes Derek Harris

The Queen's Awards for environmental achievement proved a scoop largely for the north of England and the Midlands. While companies in the South East dominated the exports and technology awards, the region provided only one of the eight environmental winners. Multicore Solders based at Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire. Multicore, part of Kelsey Industries, produces soldering materials and has pioneered a range which eliminates the need for post-manufacture cleaning of products such as electronic printed circuit boards. The company's latest no-clean materials can also eliminate volatile organic compounds that are now worrying environmentalists.

A successful attempt to farm ragworms — mainly used for sea angling — earned an award for the most northerly of the winners. Seabait of Lynmouth near Ashington, Northumberland. Peter Cowin, Seabait's managing director, began growing worms by aquaculture when an undergraduate studying zoology at Newcastle upon Tyne University.

The work, continued with help of the university which earns a royalty on sales, was the first of its kind in the world. Mr Cowin, 34, had spotted two advantages supporting such a business: ragworms are one of the most widely used baits in the North-



Alida, in Heanor, Derbyshire, has won an award for recycling 5,000 tonnes a year of contaminated polythene film waste

ern Hemisphere yet indiscriminate digging for them on beaches can be environmentally damaging. Anglers and professional diggers for worms on seashores have been coming under increasing pressure from local authorities and environmental lobbies.

Launched in 1985 with £250,000 backing, Seabait used warm running sea water from a coal-fired power station run by a subsidiary of aluminium maker, Alcan, for 4,500 square feet of culture beds.

In seven years there has been a tenfold increase in worm production. Last year there was a 20 per cent increase and this year Seabait expects to farm 17 tonnes. The worms sell at £33 a kilo, a 75-gramme pack of up to 15

worms costing the angler £2.50 over the counter.

Alida Recycling, based in Heanor, Derbyshire, has won an award for its recycling system which re-uses polythene films which have been used in sheet packaging and other waste wrappings. Two state-of-the-art plants each recycle 5,000 tonnes a year of contaminated polythene film waste. The plants produce a high quality polythene pellet which can be turned into a variety of film products for the packaging industry from carrier bags to refuse sacks and bin liners. The plants have a minimal environmental impact thanks to recycling of water used in the processing.

Bridgewater Paper, at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, is among the winners thanks to a refined system for decontaminating re-pulped paper. This enables it to produce 270,000 tonnes a year of high quality newsprint, directory and business papers containing an average of 80 per cent recycled fibre.

Combined heat and power generators that are both "greener" and cheaper have been developed by another award winner, Combined Power Systems (CPS), of Trafford Park, Manchester. More than 380 of its generators have been installed in leisure centres, hospitals and hotels around Britain.

A building energy control system based on computerised monitoring achieves average energy savings of up to 50 per cent — with consequent carbon dioxide emissions — according to Vickers Electronics, of Altrincham. Greater Manchester, another award winner. Vickers generates new business with free trials to demonstrate savings and Ken Vickers, managing director, says that the company has achieved a 100 per cent sales success rate so far.

The two other award winners are Shaw Valves, of Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, a 60-employee business which developed a long-life isolating valve to ensure zero leakage of liquid chlorine, and Dorman Diesels, of Stafford in the West Midlands. Dorman developed a low emission gas-powered engine used for industrial applications.

Irish taverns were constructed in Zurich and Geneva

Cheers for the British spirit

A Nottingham company that recreates typical British pubs hopes to take on 20 more staff after winning the export award, writes Rodney Hobson.

Frederick Harrington was founded in 1900 as a furnishing retailer but moved into the pub business 40 years ago under the founder's grandson Geoffrey Harrington. A thriving export business has built up over the past five years.

The extra jobs will be in a cabinet-making factory opened earlier this year to meet increasing demand. Harrington specialises in beautiful Victorian interiors. One installed in Warsaw is used for a weekly TV programme where political interviews are conducted over a pint. Other exports have been to Budapest and Moscow.

Pubs built behind the old iron curtain had to be inspected regularly for microphones hidden in the plasterwork. The Moscow pub interior in the five-star Savoy Hotel near Red Square was constructed in Nottingham and the six tonnes of complete furnishings were taken by road, arriving in the depths of the Russian winter with temperatures as low as minus 30 degrees.

Irish taverns were constructed in Zurich and Geneva, students drink at a pub in Lund, Switzerland, and locals in Caen, Normandy, play billiards.

Two scotch whisky producers have won export awards.



Geoff Harrington, left, and Mark Pearce, managing director

United Distillers, part of the Guinness group, is the largest scotch producer and whisky represents 90 per cent of its exports. Its best known brands are Johnnie Walker, Bell's, Dewar's and White Horse.

The merger of George Ballantine, William Teacher's, Stewarts of Dundee and Long John International in 1988 resulted in the formation of Allied Distillers, the second biggest whisky distiller. Exports have increased by £50 million in three years and represent 90 per cent of turnover.

Two producers of malt for the brewing and food industries have won export awards.

Edme, established on a 4.5 acre site at Manningtree, Essex, has seen exports grow 400 per cent over the past five years despite a major fire last year that destroyed most of the malt extract factory. Exports to 35 countries account for a third of the £9 million annual turnover.

Brewing Products (UK) was set up in 1981. Based at Kirkliston, West Lothian, it sells in 40 countries worldwide. It has trebled exports over the past three years and is now exporting more than half its production. Heavy investment in 1992 doubled production capacity for malt extract.

British drug companies are leading foreign currency earners

Zeneca and SmithKline Beecham, two of the biggest names in pharmaceuticals, picked up export awards to take their combined total to 30 awards, writes Rodney Hobson.

They operate in a very competitive world. A SmithKline Beecham spokesman says: "Governments are reviewing their healthcare costs and trying to hold down the bill. Obviously, one component is the cost of medicines."

Zeneca, formed when ICI Pharmaceuticals "de-merged"

Healthy exporters

from the chemicals half of ICI last year, won ten export awards and five technology awards. It exports to 100 countries and its best seller is Tenormin, for heart attacks and angina.

Although Zeneca is a large supplier of prescription medicines to Britain's NHS, the company exports more than 80 per cent of its production. A high proportion of overseas

earnings comes from royalties from the use of patents.

SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals, formed by an Anglo-American merger in 1989, sends almost three quarters of UK production abroad. Its biggest pharmaceuticals seller is Augmentin, an antibiotic, and Tagamet for ulcer treatment. It is also famous for its Beecham's powders.

Three academics with specialist knowledge of antibody production and research developments in pathology run Novocastra Laboratories at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Their expertise and the advanced technology of their reagents for medical and biomedical research were the main factors contributing to a doubling of exports in the past three years. Nearly all production is exported, mainly to America.

Germany, Italy and Belgium are the main markets for Abbott Laboratories, of Queenborough, Kent.



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The Queen's Award for Export 1994 has been granted to Ilmor for the second time in their ten year history of racing engine design and manufacture. The award was given for outstanding export achievement within international motor racing.

The company actively exports racing engines to a number of American Indy teams and to the Swiss Formula One team Sauber-Mercedes. Ilmor's engines have won 70% of Indy races entered, securing five consecutive PPG IndyCar World Championships and six consecutive Indianapolis 500 race wins to date.

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ConvaTec, a leading healthcare company dedicated to the research, development and manufacture of wound and stoma care products, this year has gained the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement for the development of its hydrocolloid dressing, GranuFlex™, for the treatment of wounds. The dressing's capacity to stick to both dry and wet skin and to absorb and control wound exudate has led to its important role in the management of chronic wounds such as leg ulcers and pressure sores.

GranuFlex™ is the world's leading hydrocolloid dressing, which, since its launch in 1982, has been acknowledged as a major scientific breakthrough by the medical profession, academia and the industry, ensuring ConvaTec's place as a leading authority in the field of wound healing.

ConvaTec was formed in the UK in 1977 as Squibb Surgical Ltd and now belongs to the family of companies under the umbrella of Bristol-Myers Squibb - one of the world's largest pharmaceutical corporations.

In the UK, ConvaTec employs almost 1,000 staff, some 850 of whom are based at the company's manufacturing plant in Decade, North Wales. The factory was opened in 1982 and contains some of the most advanced production techniques and equipment available. Specifically designed to meet clean air environment specifications, the equipment is 10 times cleaner than the standard recommendations.

The company's manufacturing success was recognised last year when it was honoured with the Queen's Award for Export Achievement, notably for its export success in Eastern Europe. The major part of ConvaTec's exports are currently into the EC, but in the last two years, a major investment programme has begun in Eastern European countries. With sales export growth from £202,000 in 1978 to over £75 million today, ConvaTec is becoming an increasingly important provider of medical devices for patients all around the world.

ConvaTec's portfolio comprises an extensive range of stoma care and wound care products, with a UK research and development spend of around £7 million. Their commitment to research was reinforced with the establishment in 1988 of the Wound Healing Research Institute (WHRI), also based in Decade. The centre employs 34 scientific staff to investigate wound healing mechanisms and their research has resulted in numerous publications contributing to important advances in this field.

ConvaTec have just announced part of work on a new £4.8 million research and development facility at Decade which will comprise initially of some 37,000 square feet of laboratory and office accommodation and will house some 53 staff.

ConvaTec's success has been achieved by establishing close partnerships with the medical and nursing professions and patient associations around the world and by the workforce committed to product quality and customer service - ConvaTec's hallmark.

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ANATOLE KALETSKY 29

Don't bank
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cut hopes



TRAVEL NEWS 34, 35

Tourists shun
the land of
seal-hunting



SPORT 44-48

Laura Davies leads
challenge on
European golf tour

SECOND
DEGREE
CONTACTS
Page 36

THE TIMES

THURSDAY APRIL 21 1994

Insurance watchdog to employ undercover agents



Jebens standards

By LINDSAY COOK
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

THE Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation plans to use undercover customers to find out whether insurance salesmen and investment firms break selling regulations.

Kit Jebens, the chief executive, said: "We shall not be doing it on the crude basis recently used by television producers and others. To be effective, we shall need to see a sale all the way through to the delivery of the contract documents."

The organisation will use mystery shoppers, who do not have to act, but

who are able to present their own circumstances, thus producing a genuine reaction to the sales process. Mr Jebens said: "We will have to make sure that these people are properly trained and we shall need to develop a robust system of measurement if we are to be confident of success."

By following sales through the whole process, Lauto will be able to check that correct documentation is issued, including details such as surrender values and notification of the right to cancel investments within 14 days of receiving policy documents. The forms filled out by salesmen, called fact finds, will also

be checked to see if they tally with details customers have given during interviews.

In the early days of the Financial Services Act, Mr Jebens said, many firms had had an "unacceptability rate of 80 per cent". Then, many of the forms were incomplete or obviously incorrect. Now, the equivalent figure was less than 10 per cent. However, it is not possible when checking fact finds, held at life companies' offices, to tell whether they accurately represent information customers have given about themselves.

Mr Jebens said that for the past three years, Lauto had had an

effective system for checking the quality of advice given to investors and for ensuring that salespeople with bad records were not employed by its members.

"Gone are the blatant contraventions of ethics such as entering nurses' homes without permission and persistent telephone cold calling," he said.

Lauto was concerned that companies that had achieved high standards of customer care should not be hindered by "restrictive, prescribed rules and procedures". They might not have to comply with all the rules once their excellence was established. Mystery shopping would

help Lauto to check standards. Cost savings could then be passed on to customers.

For the past year, Lauto has operated a rigorous scheme to raise standards of training and supervision. Members have been warned that those who had not implemented higher standards by April last year will have to do so immediately after an inspection visit reveals them to be lacking.

Norwich Union has had to suspend its 800-strong pension sales team for a month to retrain them. Two other, smaller, companies have had to take action with their sales forces.

Deficit beats forecast by nearly £4bn

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

THE public sector borrowing requirement, the main measure of the Government's budget deficit and the reason for a three-year programme of hefty tax increases, undershot official predictions by nearly £4 billion in the last fiscal year.

An £11.27 billion borrowing requirement in March, the last month of the 1993-94 tax year, took the total to £45.9 billion, compared with the Government's £49.8 billion budget forecast, according to the latest figures from the Central Statistical Office.

However, ministers and Treasury officials moved swiftly to head off any nascent euphoria about the Government's finances. Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, rejected calls, notably from the Institute of Directors, to scale back tax increases already pencilled in. The Treasury

■ The undershoot on Government borrowing is unlikely to mean either tax cuts or further cuts in base rates. Other figures yesterday pointed to a buoyant economy

noted that some of the areas where spending had undershot predictions were simply a question of timing and that the money would be spent in the next fiscal year.

Although the undershoot should have been positive for the bond market, because it means less gilt sales than expected, gilts — as well as shares — declined yesterday because other economic statistics were seen as reasons for the Chancellor to delay any further interest rate cut.

The markets expressed the view that a larger than expected 30,300 drop in the Government's official unemployment total to 2.72 million in March would weigh against a possible rate cut. Yesterday also saw the release of the latest

quarterly survey from the British Chambers of Commerce, which showed that most indicators point towards an increase in activity after three consecutive quarters of stagnation and that rising domestic output and export sales and orders are feeding through to the jobs market more quickly than expected.

But the biggest source of concern yesterday, particularly the gilt market, was another small rise in earnings growth. Underlying earnings growth was 3.5 per cent in February and January's earnings figure was revised up from 3.25 per cent to 3.5 per cent.

The International Monetary Fund, in its World Economic Outlook, gave warning that wage settlements in Britain have ended the downward trend in inflation, and urged the Government and the Bank of England to refrain from cutting interest rates until inflation falls further.

Richard Jeffrey, chief economist at Charterhouse Tilney, said that these figures had moved the market but added that there is still no significant wage inflation.

The Department of Employment noted specifically yesterday that the rise in February average earnings was mainly due to increases in the services sector, largely because of big City bonuses.

Speculation of a rate cut, on the back of good inflation news, eased yesterday. The markets are waiting for today's March retail sales. Unless sales are noticeably weak, the markets do not believe that rates will be cut until later in the year. This perception undermined gilts and shares, though sterling rose.

□ The Bundesbank cut its key repurchase rate to 5.58 per cent from 5.70 per cent a week ago, a much larger fall than expected, but the move failed to alleviate the negative mood in German bonds, which fell by more than half a point yesterday, for a fall of nearly 2 per cent this week.

Tax cuts rejected, page 1
Better jobs outlook, page 26
Stock Market, page 28



Martin Taylor has established five new management groups to bring the bank closer to customers' needs

Taylor launches Barclays revamp

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MARTIN Taylor, the chief executive of Barclays Bank, has begun his shake-up of the bank's old-fashioned structure, with the aim of breaking down barriers between its main business groups and of bringing those groups closer to customers' needs.

He has established five new management groups that will report directly to him from next month, replacing Barclays' two main divisions, banking and BZW, its investment management arm.

Mr Taylor acknowledged that the job of Alastair Robinson, the former head of the banking division, had ceased to exist. Mr Robinson will head one of the five new groups and deputise for Mr Taylor on a series of management committees, as well as take board-level responsibility for personnel matters and chair UK banking services.

Mr Taylor admitted that Mr Robinson's "role is being nibbled away in that the job he was doing ceases to exist. What I am trying to do is to find a complex of roles where we can use his skills and

knowledge. He is a very valuable colleague, and within three years of retirement, too."

The first of the five new groups is UK banking services, which will continue to be run by Bill Gordon. Mr Robinson's group has responsibilities that include financial services, Barclays Private Banking, and retail operations in Africa, the Caribbean and the Middle East. A European retail banking group will be set up under Carlos Martinez de Campos.

BZW will be unchanged, under David Band, Graham Pimlott, chief executive of merchant banking at BZW, will head a group made up of large corporate accounts, financial institutions, trade finance, large-ticket leasing and Barclays Global Services.

Mr Taylor said the second phase of his restructuring — separating head office functions from central or group functions, would come in the next few months. The reshuffle was intended to end rivalry between Barclays and BZW.

Pennington, page 27

Jobless total lowest for almost two years

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

UNEMPLOYMENT fell again to the lowest figure for almost two years, the Government said yesterday.

Ministers claimed the latest fall in the number of people out of work and claiming benefit supported the Government's economic and labour market strategies.

David Hunt, Employment Secretary, said: "The latest fall in unemployment is clear evidence of the benefits to Britain of policies to promote enterprise and employment."

The CBI said the figures showed that the economic recovery was now broadly based, but the TUC said they gave worrying signs about the strength of the recovery and indicated an immediate cut in interest rates was needed.

Seasonally-adjusted unemployment in March fell by 30,300 to 2,722,600 — the lowest level since May 1992. The figure gave a jobless rate of 9.7 per cent — the lowest since June 1992. Unadjusted unemployment also fell, by 63,868 to 2,777,545.

Unemployment has now fallen by 249,100 since the

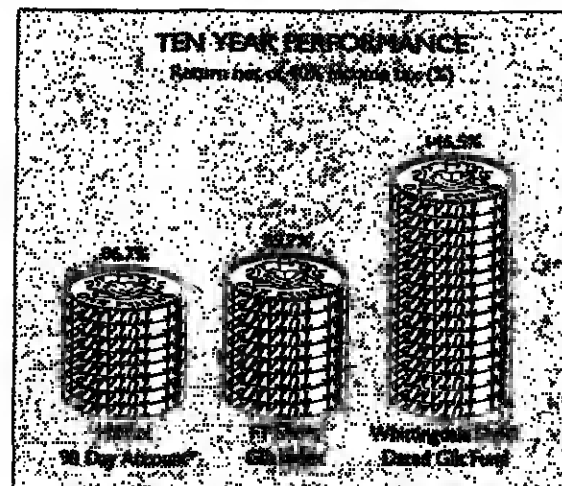
number out of work stopped rising just over a year ago. It fell in March in all regions of Britain for the second month in succession.

In spite of the 19,800 rise in unemployment in January, Government statisticians believe the trend in unemployment is now firmly downward. Whitehall officials believe that as a yardstick, the monthly figure is likely to fall by about 20,000 over the coming period.

But new vacancies at Jobcentres fell by 3,100 last month to 197,300, while unfilled vacancies fell by 1,300 to 139,800. Business leaders made clear their concern about the rising figure for increases in average earnings. Robbie Gilbert, the CBI's employment affairs director, said: "We need to keep a firm grip on pay."

The Department of Employment revised upwards the increases in average earnings in January from 3.25 to 3.5 per cent, after a rise in service sector earnings increases. Overall, earnings increases stayed at this level in February.

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All performance is to the 31/3/94 and has been calculated after all charges with income reinvested net of income tax at 40%. Over 5 years, the Short Dated Gilt Fund, an authorised unit trust, has given a net return of 53.1%. Tax rates and reliefs are dependent on the individual's circumstances and are subject to change. No allowance has been made for capital gains tax. Whittingdale Unit Trust Management Limited is a Member of IFA and LAUTRO. Whittingdale Limited is a Member of IFA. *Source: HSW Limited.

STOCK MARKET		THE POUND		GOLD	
FT-SE 100 3098.3 -29.7	DOW JONES 3592.76 -27.06	Dm 2.5173 +0.0029	US \$ 1.4861 +0.0079	BRENT CRUDE \$14.85 per barrel (Jun)	
LONDON CLOSING PRICES		MARKETS IN DETAIL, PAGE 28, SHARE PRICES PAGE 32			

Blow to Government over part-time working

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

PART-TIME work grew much more slowly in the recession than the Government has claimed, new figures showed yesterday — but the steep decline in manufacturing jobs may now be easing.

The figures on the growth of part-time work are a serious blow to the Government's claims of economic success for its policies based on increasing the flexibility of the labour market. Ministers have laid great emphasis on the growth in part-time work, and have claimed it is a key factor in where new jobs will come from.

But far-reaching revisions to the

Government's figures on the workforce in employment, published yesterday by the Department of Employment, show that the actual growth of part-time work in the recession was a great deal less than the Government claimed.

Previously, government figures had shown that from June 1990 to March 1993, part-time work grew by 94,000. But after revisions based on figures now available from the 1991 census of population, the growth in part-time jobs over the period is now said to be only 2,000 — 92,000 less than was previously estimated.

This lower figure means that what was claimed to be a 1.4 per cent rise in

part-time working over the period is now said to be an increase of only 0.03 per cent. At the same time, full-time jobs were said to have fallen 2.1 million, but the new figures show they fell only 1.9 million.

Over the three available quarters since March 1993, the Government had claimed that part-time work rose 172,000, but are now saying it increased only 144,000.

When challenged that ministers had been wrong in their claims about the growth of part-time working, the DoE could offer no explanation for the change other than to emphasise the accuracy of the new figures. The revised figures also show that the fall

in the size of workforce, manufacturing and service sector employment in the recession was smaller than the Government claimed. But new monthly figures for employment in manufacturing, also published yesterday, seem to indicate that the steep decline in the number of people employed in the sector may now be over. Manufacturing employment rose 3,000 in February to stand at 4.26 million, following a revised increase the previous month of 5,000.

The new figures mean that in the 12 months to January, manufacturing employment fell 16,000 overall, compared with a fall of 204,000 in the 12 months to the previous January. In

the nine months to December last year, employment in the banking, finance and insurance sector rose 73,000, or 2.8 per cent, to take it to about 2.7 million. Employment in retail distribution rose 39,000, or 1.8 per cent, while in social, personal and recreational services it went up 38,000, or 2.2 per cent. Employment in textile manufacturing rose 20,000, or as much as 4.9 per cent.

British Coal's pit closure programme was reflected in the coal, oil and natural gas sector, where employment fell 30,000, or 25.7 per cent. In education, it fell 22,000, while in posts and telecommunications it was down 12,000.

Outlook for jobs and output the best since 1990

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUSINESS growth is at pre-recession levels and the jobs outlook is better than at any time since the downturn began, according to a key industrial survey.

Buoyed up by better unemployment and public spending figures, the Government will take heart from the findings of the latest survey by the British Chambers of Commerce. This is claimed to be the biggest business survey, covering 7,500 companies in both manufacturing and services.

Ministers are likely, though, to focus their attention on next week's quarterly industrial trends survey from the Confederation of British Industry, regarded as the best long-term indicator of the state of British business. Whitehall officials expect it to show similar signs of improvement.

The chambers say that with growth reaching pre-recession levels and orders rising, "the economy is set for continuing improvement", though they warn that manufacturers' confidence could suffer from this month's tax rises.

Richard Brown, the chambers' deputy director-general, commented: "This is the kind of steady increase and recovery we want to see." Six months ago, survey evidence was suggesting that the fragile recovery could either improve or fall back, but Mr Brown

■ Despite the better news, ministers are likely to focus on next week's quarterly industrial trends survey from economists at the Confederation of British Industry

said that there had since been "stronger levels of growth"; the survey's indicators had moved the right way.

The chambers say resumption of an upward trend in output after three successive flat quarters is an "encouraging sign", but warn that smaller firms have so far been unable to match the growth of larger companies.

The survey shows that domestic output and export orders and sales rose in both manufacturing and services, that investment intentions are more positive than they have been for four years and that the outlook for employment is better than at any time since early in 1990.

The chambers' principal findings are: □ UK manufacturing output is continuing to rise slowly. When companies reporting growth are set against those registering decline, there is a positive balance of 27 per cent up just one percentage point in the first quarter of the year, though services continue to see higher demand.

□ A positive balance of 28 per

cent of manufacturers and 26 per cent of service companies saw higher export sales over the quarter — a rise of two and four points respectively.

□ A positive balance of one fifth of manufacturing companies have revised upwards their plans for investment in plant and machinery; in services, the balance stands at 16 per cent. Capacity utilisation in manufacturing remains static; only a quarter of companies are operating at full capacity.

□ Employment in manufacturing is static, with equal numbers of companies taking on and cutting back on staff, but the balance of expectations for the second quarter is improving, at a positive 8 per cent, it is the best since the beginning of 1990. In services, companies increasing employment outweigh others by 8 per cent and those forecasting rises by 14 per cent.

□ Business confidence that turnover will improve has risen in both sectors. The positive balance was up from 57 to 63 per cent in manufacturing, and from 54 to 55 per cent in services. But confidence in improving profitability is flat in manufacturing, which the chambers' analysts believe could reflect concern about the tax rises.

Christopher Stewart-Smith, the chambers' president, said: "Most indicators are now moving fractionally, but consistently, upwards."



Maurice Henchey, chief executive, hopes to reduce debts and redeem preference shares

Healthcall to float at £70m

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

HEALTHCALL, the UK's biggest provider of stand-in doctors, confirmed yesterday, as it unveiled its pathfinder prospectus, that its planned flotation next month should value it at about £70 million.

Maurice Henchey, chief executive, said the group, whose profits have risen from £4.06 million to £6.05 million in the past two years, hoped to raise

about £35 million of new money, more than two-thirds of it to reduce debts and redeem preference shares.

In addition, Mr Henchey said the flotation, via a placing with institutional investors and offer to brokers' intermediaries, would give Healthcall, which provides doctor cover in more than 100 British cities and towns, flexibility to pursue

healthcare opportunities. After the flotation, which comes four years after the Milton Keynes company was bought out from Aircall by its management, the directors and 70 managers will hold about 18 per cent of the group. They now have just under 30 per cent. The share price is expected to be announced on May 5.

Keep up laundering fight says Clarke

By ROBERT MILLER

THE international crusade to stamp out money laundering, begun in earnest five years ago, must continue, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said in London yesterday. The Treasury estimates that the cost to financial institutions of setting up security checks will be £30 million this year and £20 million a year thereafter.

The Chancellor was speaking at the opening of a three-day meeting of the financial action task force, which was established in 1989 and now encompasses 26 governments.

Mr Clarke told delegates: "The task force's work has brought together experts from finance and justice ministries, bank supervisory and regulatory agencies, and law enforcement authorities. Key international bodies involved in combating the launderers are involved in your work." Today, delegates will discuss the use of shell companies to

disguise the ultimate beneficiaries of laundered money.

On April 1, new anti-money laundering legislation came into force as part of the EC Money Laundering Directive. All financial institutions must now have in place systems and controls to prevent money laundering and report any suspicious money movements to the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS).

The number of "reports" made to NCIS has increased from just under 5,000 in 1991 to 12,736 last year. It is expected to increase "significantly" this year. Some 80 per cent of the disclosures came from the big four clearing banks and TSB. NCIS receives about 70-80 reports a day.

A spokeswoman for the British Bankers' Association said: "The Government must provide NCIS and individual police forces with much more resources."

Manduca chosen for Threadneedle

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PAUL Manduca, the deputy managing director of Henderson Administration following its merger with Touche Ross in December 1992, is leaving to head Threadneedle Asset Management, the new investment business of BAT Industries Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star.

Mr Manduca will take up his new job when the two merge their investment arms on June 1.

With £30 billion of funds under management, Threadneedle will immediately become Britain's tenth biggest asset management operation. Mr Manduca worked for Touche Ross for ten years before its sale to Henderson by Société Générale, the French bank. Before that he was the UK investment manager at Hill Samuel.

Threadneedle will manage 170 Eagle Star and 60 Allied Dunbar funds and unit trusts.

It will have two main operating units. Threadneedle Investment Managers, based in the City, will run the investment management business, while Threadneedle Property Fund Managers, whose portfolio is predominantly commercial property, will be based in the West End.

Kenneth Inglis, head of Allied Dunbar Investment Management, was originally to have taken the job, but in February he announced he would be leaving to become chairman of Fleming Investment.

Mr Manduca said that his new role was "a big new opportunity" with lots of good prospects.

He refused to reveal how much Threadneedle had had to pay him to tempt him away from Henderson, saying only: "It is a big job and there is a market place for this sort of job."

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ALLIED DISTILLERS LIMITED

IMF warns against UK rate cut

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON

THE International Monetary Fund warned the British Government and the Bank of England not to cut interest rates until inflation fell further. In its *World Economic Outlook*, the general tone of which is one of the most optimistic in years, the IMF said recent UK wage settlements "raise the risk that inflation may have bottomed out and financial market developments suggest some increase in uncertainty about inflation prospects".

Further monetary easing, it argues, should await evidence that inflation is on course for the medium-term target of 1 to 2.5 per cent. None the less, the



Mussa: cautious

report refers to Britain as the "third bright spot in the short-term outlook for the major industrial countries", the others being the US and Canada. It says the "momentum

turn of recovery should be sufficiently strong to permit output to rise by 2.5 per cent in 1994 and ... by slightly more in 1995".

Despite the general optimism, Michael Mussa, the IMF's chief economist, gave a cautious assessment of interest rates worldwide. He warned that American short-term interest rates, which have risen this week to 3.75 per cent, may have to go up further. He said brisk economic activity in the US required a speedy return to a "neutral" monetary stance; this was consistent with short-term rates of 4 to 5 per cent.

Mr Mussa said the recent surge in long-term rates, which followed the Fed's decision to raise short-term rates,

was understandable, though exaggerated. "To the extent the interest rates are above 7 per cent, it represents a market overreaction." Yesterday, the benchmark 30-year treasury bond traded at a yield of 7.37 per cent.

Mr Mussa predicted that the world economy would "enjoy a year of recovery and beyond". The IMF forecasts US economic growth of 4 per cent this year and 2.5 per cent in 1995.

The IMF's report points to "the lack of adequate progress with macroeconomic stabilisation in Russia and most of the other countries of the former Soviet Union". It calls on governments of the ex-Soviet republics to "enforce reasonable financial discipline".

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Exchange rates boost Cookson chief's pay

FAVOURABLE exchange rates boosted the pay of Richard Oster, chief executive of Cookson, the specialist industrial materials group, by 28 per cent last year. Mr Oster, who presided over a 59 per cent jump in group profits in 1993, saw his total remuneration increase from £862,427 to £1.11 million. However, most of the rise in Mr Oster's pay, which is paid partly in dollars and partly in sterling, was attributable to movements in exchange rates. The underlying increase was a more modest 9 per cent. Cookson is widely seen as leading the field when it comes to giving a detailed breakdown of executive pay. Its annual report includes a page devoted to the group's policy on executive compensation including how it decides the level of base salary, bonus and share options.

GE confident

GENERAL Electric (GE), the American conglomerate, renewed its commitment to record earnings this year, in spite of a \$210 million charge arising from alleged irregular trading activity at Kidder Peabody, its securities house subsidiary. The pledge from John Welch, the GE chairman, accompanied figures that showed first quarter earnings down to \$1.07 billion from \$1.08 billion. Earnings per share eased to \$1.25 (\$1.27). Turnover was \$14.2 billion (\$12.9 billion). Mr Welch said GE's underlying strength, with innovative new products and increasing penetration of international markets, was undiminished. *Tempos, page 29*

Malaysia confirms ban

A COMMITTEE of the Malaysian cabinet confirmed its government's decision to exclude British companies from work on the second Kuala Lumpur airport. British partners in the Anglo-Japanese consortium included Balfour Beatty; General Electric Company and Trafalgar House. Their Japanese partners have been told to find alternative collaborators if they wish to be considered for further contracts. Confirmation of the ban, imposed in response to British press coverage concerning the use of British aid to construct Malaysia's Pergau Dam hydro-electric project, was made by Anwar Ibrahim, the deputy prime minister.

Guy leaves Sherwood

RICHARD Guy left yesterday as executive chairman of Sherwood Computer Services, as the group revealed it had dived into the red in 1993 and was passing the final dividend (\$2.5p). The company was hit by £1.9 million of exceptional costs and the knock-on effects of the problems at Lloyd's of London insurance market, to which it provides services. It meant a pre-tax loss of just under £2 million replaced a £3 million profit the previous year. Mr Guy, who was with USM-quoted Sherwood for 17 years, was on a two-year rolling contract believed to be worth £150,000 a year. *Tempos, page 27*

TREG to raise £57m

TR EUROPEAN Growth Trust (TREG), the investment trust managed by Henderson Touche Remnant, is planning to raise up to £57.7 million in a placing and offer for subscription of up to 60 million 100p C shares. NatWest Securities has agreed to "use reasonable endeavours" to procure subscribers for up to 45 million shares, and the remaining 15 million will be available under an offer for subscription. The offer will be open for applications until Friday, May 13. The trust invests predominantly in smaller and medium-sized companies in Europe, excluding the UK. At end-March, it had net assets of £64.5 million.

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□ Regulator to police pensions selling □ Taylor sweeps clean □ Foreign flavour for Queens Awards

Death of a salesman

NO-ONE knows what goes on in sitting rooms all over the country when the insurance man comes to call. Whatever the rule books and training manuals may require, private enterprise comes into its own when a salesman is desperate to close a deal. Allegations of mis-selling of pensions, life policies and other investments are legion. It is not surprising when salesmen know that their children might not eat and their mortgage may not be paid and their retirement pension will be shrunken if they do not sell a policy now.

Commission is at the root of the problem. The average salesman sells 13 policies a week and at the end of a long week of visiting potential clients and playing it by the rules he might be tempted to say something he should not if a sale seems to be slipping away.

As he leans a little closer, he might conspiratorially whisper: "I am not allowed to tell you this, but we have been achieving far better investment returns than the industry average." He may even fib and say that the policy will help the young nurse or teacher to get their first mortgage or that their pension is not safe in the Government superannuation scheme.

And once the customer has signed on the dotted line he will not let the regulatory disclosure

system get in the way of a sizeable commission. With a nod and a wink, he may suggest that the documentation that will arrive with confirmation of the sale is too technical for even him, an industry stalwart, to understand, let alone a busy customer.

But maybe that could change once word gets round that the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation, the regulator that knows better than anyone what abuses have been widespread in the insurance industry, is planning to start checking up on what goes on in the sitting room.

It is planning to test salesmen and then, if they fall short of the required standards, shop the companies that employ them. The so-called "mystery shoppers" will use their real circumstances to test sales techniques and backup service.

Too often in the past, customers have complained that salesmen have sold them annual premium policies when they thought they were buying a single premium product, or that they were sold bonds when they wanted units. When Lauto

finds that a company has an exemplary sales and administration team, it will be able to relax its regulatory grip and concentrate on the real villains who send out sales manuals urging their staff to break all the rules as they force their way into student hostels to sell expensive policies to people who do not need them.

There are some who might ponder why the testing has not been going on for the last six years since the Financial Services Act came into force. But if it puts the fear of God into salesmen now, investors should be protected at last. Shutting at least half of the stable dog...

Gale force at Barclays

ONLY three months into the job, Martin Taylor has already gone to battle against fantastically complicated hierarchical structure at Barclays Bank.

As promised last month, he has lost no time in shaking up the sprawling organisation that he described as complacent and held back by inertia. His



exasperation at the bank's preference for the status quo was self-evident yesterday as he started his task of chipping away at its bureaucratic iceberg.

No, he said, the five new divisions would not be turned into holding companies or subsidiaries of the bank. "I would like to abolish some subsidiaries. This place is statutory-entirety mad. I wish I could find the person who does it and stop him. Someone down there is incorporating things every day, not realising that they cost money to service."

He came back to the point several times. Creating a series of holding companies for the new divisions "would very much be the Barclays idea — in fact it has

probably been done this morning without my being told." The bank has in the past been far too preoccupied with form rather than their substance, something Mr Taylor is intent on changing.

In creating the five new management groups that will sit alongside the two group functions of finance and information technology, Mr Taylor is just starting to get to grips. He will be able to get closer to the businesses, avoid wasting his time sitting in endless head-office committee meetings, and, perhaps more importantly, end the rivalry between the banking operations and BZW.

Not surprisingly, after the fuss involved in persuading the bank to appoint him in the first place, his first actions have been eagerly awaited. So it sounded just a little like false modesty when he said yesterday: "I don't think our little family changes are particularly interesting."

He billed them as ordinary management housekeeping, and promised more to come.

Next, Mr Taylor has promised to end the confusion between Barclays' head office and its

group operations. He intends to impose change whether the bank likes it or not. The organisation has been too conscious of the risk of change and not of the risk of not changing.

Phase two of his restructuring is less urgent, but he is imposing equally tough deadlines on himself. In fact, he apologised for not having got to grips with it already. Barclays' shareholders who had been hoping for a breath of fresh air, find themselves facing a force 10 gale.

The best of British

THE Queens Awards are an annual celebration of all that is best in British industry. Winners this year include Honda, Nissan, Nestlé, Bechtel, Philips, GEC Alsthom, MIRA Marconi and SmithKline Beecham. As the Government said this week: "There are no foreign companies in Britain, only British firms with foreign parents."

Britishness has become a commodity that can be easily purchased and put on: good

news for J. Barbour & Sons, which this year wins a second export award for flogging foreign-made waxed jackets.

The diversity of the awards is their charm. Where else can a company that puts advertising slogans on eggs, or a manufacturer of computer software, share the laurels with Zeneca?

Above all, the awards acknowledge ingenuity in spotting opportunities for new products and services, and developing them. And in adapting to adversity. British Coal may be a sliver of its former self, but its mining consultants are busy overseas.

Japan frightens its customer countries by swamping their national markets with branded goods in prominent sectors. Britain's exporters are more subtle. They sell home-brew kits to the Swedes, whisky to the Japanese, fake pubs to the Russians, shortbread to the French and smoked salmon to the Chinese community of Hong Kong.

But there is no cause for complacency. Tomorrow's exports will derive from today's innovation. The recession has taken its toll. Despite the 203 applications for technology awards, only 18 will be presented, against a peak of 49 in 1990. Even taking into account the eight environmental awards, the trend is worrying.

Our Price abandons digital cassettes

Britain's biggest music retailer has delivered a blow to Philips, which spent £65 million on digital compact cassettes. Our Price apparently lost patience with low sales

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

OUR Price, Britain's biggest music retailer, has stopped stocking digital compact cassettes (DCC), one of two new hi-fi formats currently fighting it out for the wallets of music buffs, and is sending its stocks back to the makers.

The news will be a bitter blow for Philips, the Dutch electronics combine that has spent £65 million developing DCC, marketed as bringing to the humble cassette the high-quality sound available on compact disc, against strong competition from Sony's rival MiniDisc.

Our Price, which has kept a limited number of DCCs on sale at 10 of its chain of 330 stores countrywide since the format was launched 18 months ago as an experiment, has apparently lost patience with the low sales achieved, and the limited shelf space made available to the new cassettes was being cleared yesterday.

Another big record chain, the US-owned Tower Records, has also recently discontinued sales of both DCCs and MiniDiscs at all stores but its West End flagship.

Our Price will continue to stock a limited number of MiniDiscs, which are based on technology closer to the

compact disc and are aimed at the portable hi-fi market. Although both manufacturers are refusing to give out sales figures, they are believed by industry experts to have been extremely disappointing, but MiniDisc is reckoned to have the edge over DCC.

A spokesman for WH Smith, owner of Our Price and controller of a quarter of the British recorded music market, would also not say how many of either format had been sold but confirmed that sales had been "tiny".

Philips has just begun an important marketing campaign aimed at boosting sales of DCC decks before price cuts that come into effect this month to bring the cost of the machines down to levels where they can compete with other equipment.

The group, as the biggest surviving player in the European consumer electronics industry, has a great deal riding on the success or failure of the DCC. The company invented the compact disc but has had several disasters in the television field. A spokesman said sales of DCC players had been in line with expectations but confirmed that the format "has not been an instant success overnight".

Havelock back in the black

By COLIN CAMPBELL

HAVELOCK Europa, the store that focuses on the financial services and food retailing sectors, is to pay a dividend for the first time in three years after a £5.34 million turnaround from losses to profit.

The group shows a pre-tax profit of £2.28 million for the year ended December 31 compared with a previous £3.07 million loss, and will pay a first and final dividend of 2p a share out of net earnings of 1.4p a share. There was only a nominal tax charge for the 1993 financial year. It last declared a dividend in 1991 when only an interim was paid.

New Balfour, chief executive, said the group intends to resume a pattern of interim and final dividends, and will adopt a progressive policy.

The second half of the 1993 year was considerably stronger than the first, and at December 31, net cash totalled £2.5 million, compared with £2.2 million of debt a year earlier. Turnover was £3.3 million (£3.9 million).

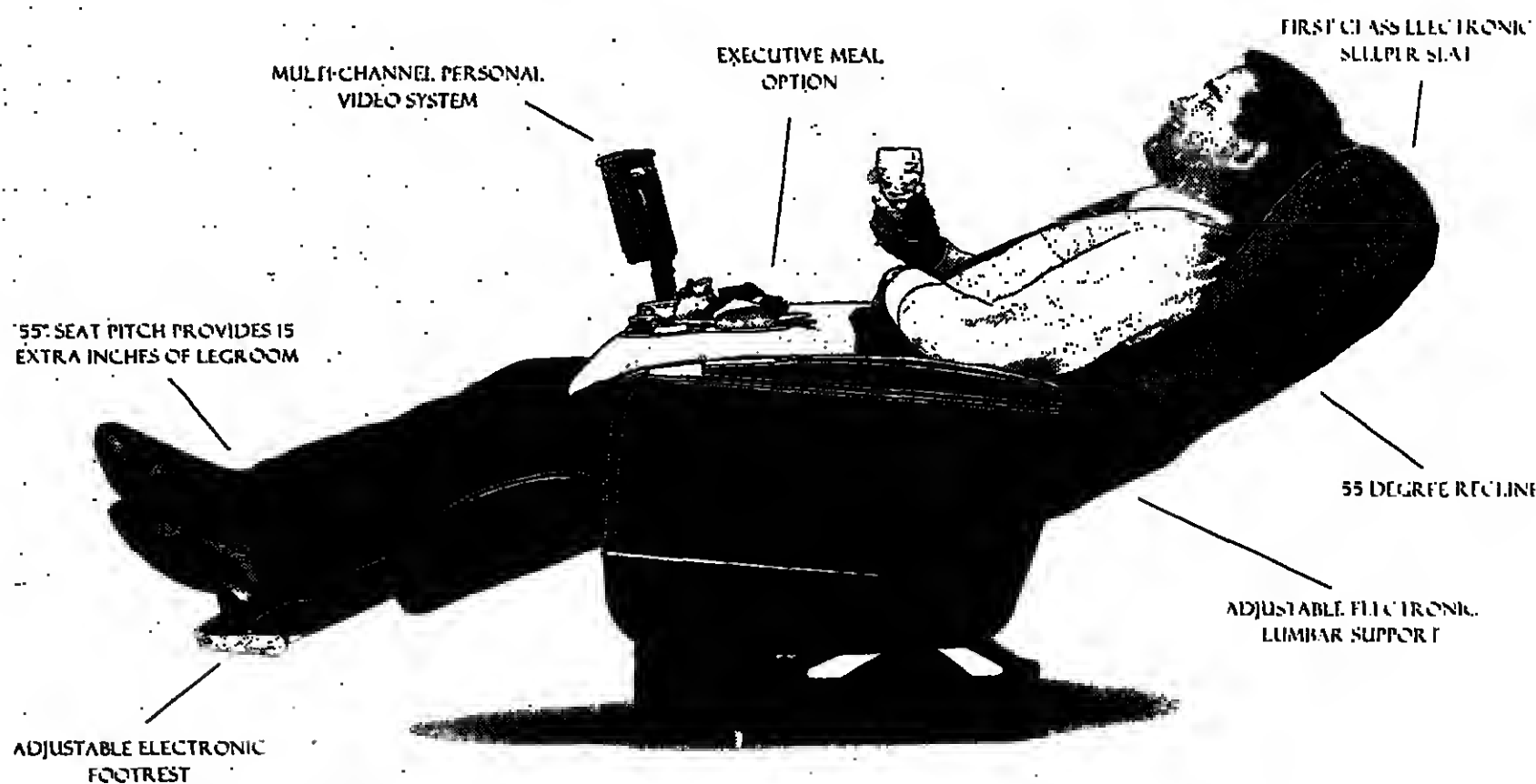
AT&T rings turnaround of \$8bn

By COLIN NARBROUGH

AMERICAN Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T), the US telecommunications giant, staged an \$8 billion turnaround to show a first-quarter net profit of \$1.09 billion, with turnover rising to \$16.6 billion. The net loss of \$6.83 billion in the first quarter of 1993 was the result of a huge \$7.77 billion provision required by accounting changes.

Robert Allen, chairman, said he was encouraged by underlying trends, which bode well for this year. Long-distance revenue rose 3 per cent to \$10.2 billion in the first quarter and call volume nearly 7 per cent. Product and systems revenues were up 14 per cent at \$4.07 billion, while financial services rose more than 21 per cent. Mr Allen voiced confidence that AT&T's bid to acquire McCaw Cellular Communications in a \$12.6 billion merger would succeed. BT has joined a consortium to bid for the second mobile phone licence in Spain. The British company's partners will be Banco Santander, the Spanish commercial bank, and American Information Technology Corporation.

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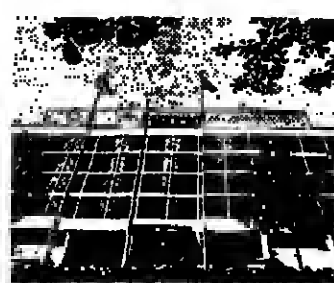


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ECONOMIC VIEW

Will Chancellor Clarke try for a pre-election boom?

Anatole Kaletsky says that when it comes to political manipulation of economic policy, taxes not interest rates are where the danger lies

Successive Conservative Chancellors since Lord Lawson went off the rails in the mid-1980s have based their economic policies on a variant of the tabloid editors' old slogan: nobody has ever lost an election by underestimating the intelligence of the British public. In the last two general elections, the Government has shamelessly offered to bribe voters with promises of large tax cuts combined with commitments to ever-rising public spending. In both cases, it won. The 1992 victory, although it had more to do with the unpalatability of Labour's economic alternative than with the Government's own rather inept campaigning, went against the odds.

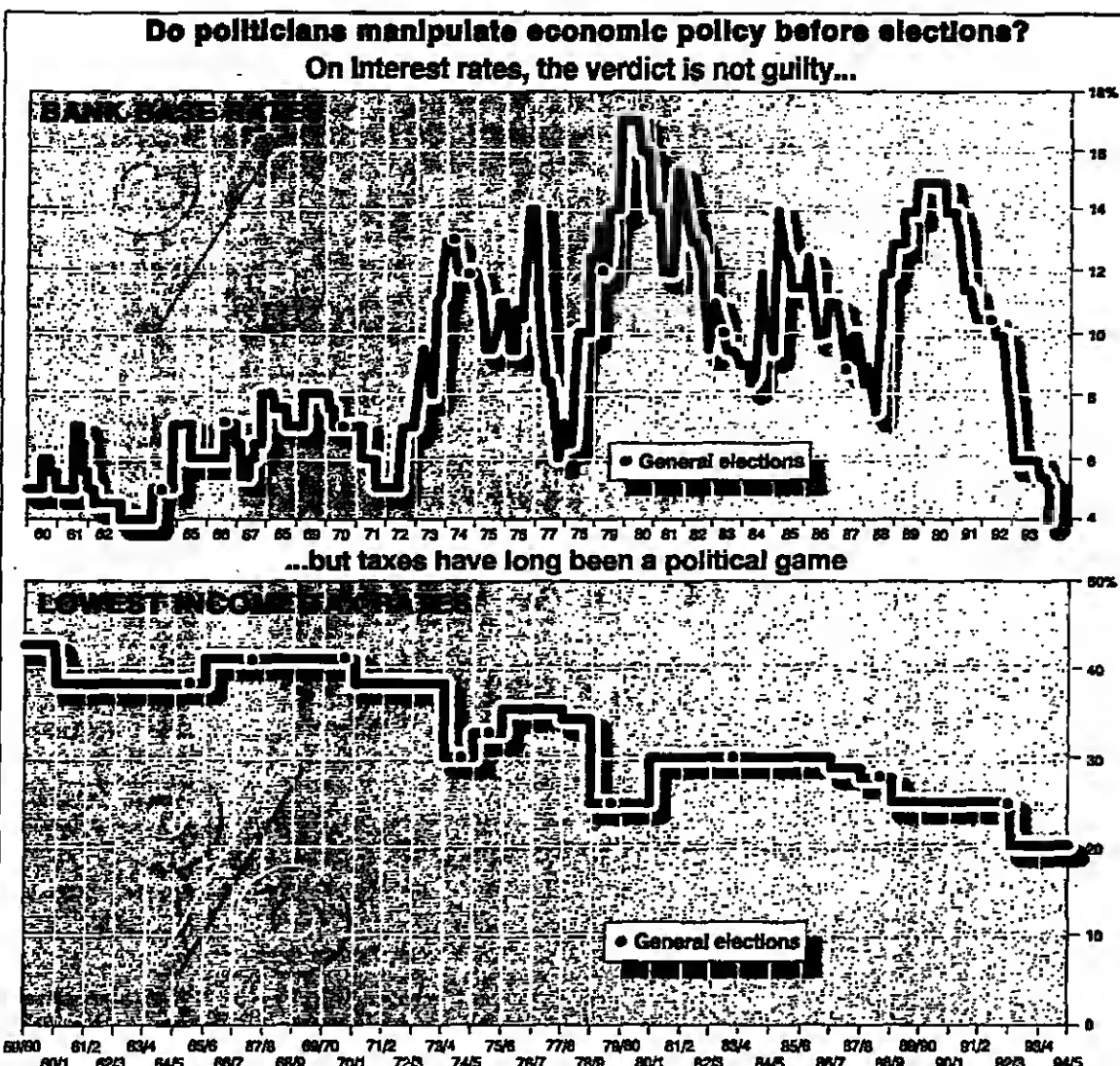
As a result, a powerful idea has taken hold among the political establishment. There are two central tenets to this "Big Idea": a necessary condition for winning any general election is to promise cuts in the standard rate of income tax; a sufficient condition for victory is to make a down-payment on promises of future tax cuts, with at least one headline-grabbing rate change a few months before polling.

The theory that marginal rates of income tax are the key to success in British elections is now taken for granted, not only in the Conservative Party but also among many Labour politicians and in the Westminster media circus, which defines the conventional wisdom. Whether or not this is true as an empirical statement about voting behaviour, I hesitate to say, since my attempts to rationalise recent events have been much shakier in politics than in economics.

What is clear, however, is that most Conservative backbenchers believe a cut in the standard rate of income tax to be a *sine qua non* before the next general election and that the smaller than expected public sector borrowing requirement of "only" £46 billion announced yesterday has brought the plans for such a pre-election tax cut back to the top of the Government's political agenda. What is even clearer (and here I can abandon politics and return to the sure ground of economics) is that any Chancellor who actually announced a significant tax cut between now and the next election would be committing an economic idiosyncrasy unequalled in British history since well before the 1979 election. Denis Healey cut taxes before the 1979 election, Tony Barber cut taxes before the 1974 election, and Reginald Maudling stepped on the economic accelerator (albeit without an overt tax cut) in 1962.

In each of these cases, the Chancellor started out with an economy that was already advancing strongly, but showing few signs of inflationary overheating. In each case, by cutting income taxes just as the economy was picking up natural momentum, the Treasury turned a healthy business-cycle upswing into a turbo-charged consumer spending spree. Very soon, the economy began to suck in imports, property prices spiralled upwards and inflation accelerated — and after each boom there followed a traditional British sterling crisis, a credit squeeze, a property collapse and a recession.

Although the lags between tax-induced booms and busts have varied from one year to five, the general pattern has been amazingly similar. But



what is even more amazing is that neither the Treasury, nor the politicians nor the financial markets have ever seemed to learn the obvious lesson. Instead of focusing on politically motivated misjudgments in tax policy (and the closely related instruments of credit policy that the Treasury often used to reinforce tax changes), both Westminster and City commentators have repeatedly allowed the Treasury to shift the blame for fiscal mismanagement. The Maudling boom was blamed on trade union pay bargainers and complacent British managements. After the Barber boom, the culprits were said to be the Arab oil sheiks and coal miners. The post-Healey inflation was blamed on the Ayatollah Khomeini and the Clegg Commission.

And even after the Lawson boom, which was, for once, blamed on Treasury misjudgment, it was Lord Lawson's pre-occupation with manipulating the exchange rate, rather than his policies on taxes and credit regulation, that were universally held responsible. It is already possible to discern how this pattern will be repeated in the next inflationary upswing, say in 1997 or 1998. The City, the press and the pundits are obsessed with monetary policy. They believe that monetary policy is the sole cause of inflation and that controlling inflation is the most important economic duty of the Government and the central bank. The great issue of political economy for the 1990s, therefore, is whether the Bank of England or the Treasury should set interest rates and how to arrange public accountability for this all-important task. Meanwhile, they ignore the infinitely more important question of how to discourage the Government from following

fiscal policies that will destabilise the economy and fuel inflation.

Today, City analysts are willing to argue for hours about the pros and cons of another quarter percentage point cut in base rates. They chortle that the Chancellor has tied his hands over future monetary policy by publishing the minutes of his monthly meetings with the Bank and allowing the Bank to express its independent views. They publicly applaud the way that this will guarantee Britain against another irresponsible, politically inspired monetary policy, but they secretly worry whether future disagreements between the Treasury and the Bank will cause chaos in the financial markets. But amid all these reflections, economists and financiers are happy to consign to the realm of party political electioneering the Government's decisions on taxes, spending and public borrowing.

The more politicians are forced to pursue tight monetary policies, either by historical obligations with "defending the pound" or by misguided central bankers such as Eddie George, the more tempted they will be to take advantage of their freedom to set a loose fiscal course. And the more a nation follows a pattern of tight monetary policy and loose fiscal policy of the kind the Bank implicitly seems to favour, the more its currency becomes overvalued, its exports suffer and its consumers indulge themselves while its industries fade away.

History shows quite clearly that it is fiscal, not monetary, policy that politicians tend to abuse for electoral advantage. The top chart, of base rates since 1960, shows that the electorally motivated interest rate cuts which so worry the Bank and the markets are largely a

figment of the City's imagination. There have been nine general elections since 1960 and in more than half, interest rates were raised, rather than cut, during the 12 months before the election. There were only two cases — 1987 and 1992 — when interest rates were lowered substantially in the pre-election period. In two other cases, where interest rates were cut slightly (1979 and 1983), these reductions were just small corrections after much sharper increases that Lord Healey and Howe respectively had not shrunk from imposing in pre-election years. Nobody could claim that in 1992 Norman Lamont was conducting an excessively easy monetary policy for electoral reasons. In fact, the rate cuts of 1987 undertaken by Nigel Lawson were probably the one case in post-war history that was genuinely "political".

Now look at the lower chart. Again and again, governments of both political colours have cut taxes before a general election (to win votes) or just after (to redeem a possibly rash election pledge). These tax cuts have usually been made with no regard for the state of the economic cycle or the needs of macroeconomic policy. Often they have proved extremely destabilising, not only by adding fuel to inflationary booms but also by necessitating deflationary fiscal measures when the economy was weak — as in 1976, 1980-81 and most recently this year.

Kenneth Clarke, to his credit, seems determined not to become just another Tory Chancellor whose name becomes an adjective to qualify the noun "boom". Yesterday on the radio, Mr Clarke quite rightly brushed off advice from the supposedly anti-inflationary Institute of Directors, which within minutes of the PSBR figures being released was calling for the Chancellor to use "the improvement in public finances" to cancel some of his tax increases. So far so good. But will he remain so steadfast in 1995 or 1996?

The theory that marginal rates of income tax are the key to success in elections is now taken for granted

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Sticky problem for SA election

LOST in the sea of South African election stories has been the role of De La Rue, the UK security printer that won the contract to print the 80 million ballot papers. The use of a non-South African firm incensed the local printing industry, which has shed more than 6,000 jobs in the past two years. The Independent Electoral Commission said the need for security and speed made De La Rue the obvious choice. Locals claimed they could do the job for half the price — a reputed R6 million to print the ballot papers plus up to R4 million in freight costs. De La Rue will not comment on the contract, saying it is a private matter, but is mercifully free of the latest dilemma — how to print, distribute and affix Inkatha stickers on to 80 million national and provincial ballot papers with less than a week to go before voting starts. De La Rue is not involved — the stickers are being churned out by a company in Durban — but the logistics have alarmed

UK observers. "How are you going to ensure security?" says one industry source. "There is a risk of spilt papers, and what if the people doing the sticking steal some of the ballots?" The exercise may prove unworkable, leading some to wonder whether Chief Buthe has not played his trump card after all.

Hard to please

NEVER send back a meal at the Dorchester. Richard Harden, the former Samuel Mont-

agu corporate financier-turned-food critic who had the audacity to do this a couple of years ago — in a scene reminiscent of H.M. Bateman — appears to have fallen foul of the Dorchester's owner, the Sultan of Brunei. The hotel shop has been told to clear its stock of Harden's *London Restaurant*, the guide he set up with his brother, Peter, in 1991. "We aim not to assassinate for the sake of it," says a peeved Harden, who describes the hotel's Oriental restaurant in the guide as "staggeringly expen-

sive" and "disappointingly colourless". Further to the East, Harden says food in the Square Mile continues to be boring and over-priced, with some bright spots. "It's not quite the grim black hole it was," he says.

Rook rifle wanted

DEFENCE experts from British Aerospace have admitted defeat in efforts to halt an invasion of rooks. The birds first resisted a drenching from fire hoses as they built nests above the car park at the headquarters of Royal Ordnance, Chorley, Lancashire. To the company's acute embarrassment, they then ignored a volley of blank charges — a poor advert for the ammunition BAE is trying to sell worldwide. The rooks are now responding with precision bombing runs which have boosted the profits of a car wash run by a local garage.

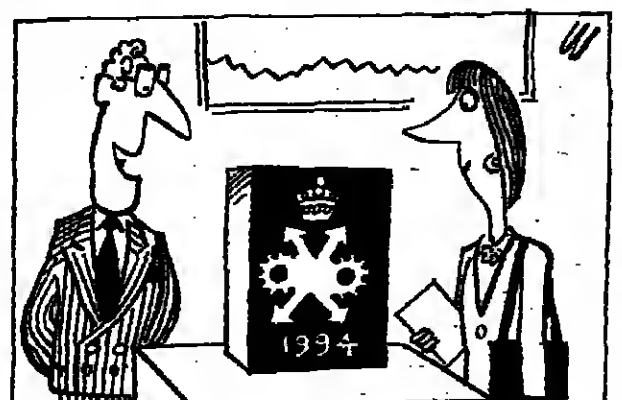
For Gaelic buffs

ALLIED Distillers, the Scotch whisky producer whose brands include Bannantine, Teachers and Laphroaig, is

enjoying a "Royal" year. It has just received the Queen's Award for Export, soon after winning a Royal Warrant for Laphroaig from the Prince of Wales, and seeing its parent, Allied-Lyons, become principal sponsor of the Royal Shakespeare Company. To celebrate, Allied Distillers is offering 12 cases of specially commissioned "Royal Warrant" Laphroaig — worth £300 each — to City Diary readers. The senders of the first 12 entries pulled out of the bowler and containing the correct English translation of the Gaelic word Laphroaig will each win a case. Send entries to: *The City Diary Scotch Draw; The Times; 1 Pennington Street; London E1 9XN.*

Elizabeth Sullivan, who six years ago forsook a career in City dealing rooms for the racy world of headhunting, is playing down a vile rumour that she will be wearing a bullet-proof bra when she flies to Egypt on holiday today. "It's a complete lie," she tells me. "I'm going to visit my nunny."

JON ASHWORTH



TEMPUS

Electric's shock

SHORN of the astonishing events and extraordinary provisions at its Kidder Peabody subsidiary, General Electric's first quarter results displayed the outstanding solidity that Wall Street has come to expect from this sprawling group. The business is feeling the full benefit of the economic recovery in America and posting double digit profit increases in subsidiaries as diverse as NBC television and plastics.

If the group can sustain the 10 per cent growth in first quarter revenues it should have no difficulty in making good its commitment to produce record earnings this year, since they are only 2 cents, or 1.5 per cent, adrift after the first quarter despite the provision at Kidder.

Given the spread of GE's activities it is a tribute to the management that it has not suf-

fered any similar shocks elsewhere. Until now GE has shown that it is as adept at running a financial services business as an aero engine manufacturer. But securities dealing is a business unlike any other in the scale of risks to which it is exposed. Like Allied-Lyons before, GE has discovered that one strategically placed financial trader can lose more money in an afternoon than an underperforming subsidiary will consume in a year.

When GE bought Kidder, it argued that it was a logical extension of the financial services activities in GE Capital. Perhaps now is the time to review that argument and for GE to admit that there is a limit to its impressive diversification skills. Otherwise the legacy of the whole affair could be a permanent risk discount for Kidder in GE's share price.

BAC

SHARES in British Aerospace have been undergoing a rare bout of underperformance in the past two and half months, their longest period in the doldrums since the dark days of 1992.

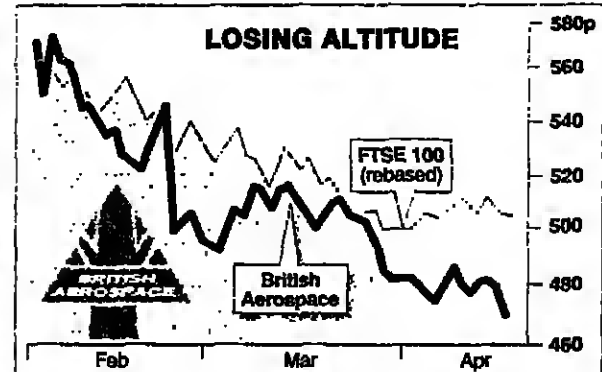
One of the factors weighing down the share price is that BAE is repeatedly breaching its 29.5 per cent limit on foreign ownership. This creates a round of forced selling which is well flagged to the market since BAE has to tell its overseas investors to reduce holdings. Market-makers knock the price back and the loose stock is being picked up by American funds, which breaches the ceiling again. The process has been repeated three times in the past month.

But there are more fundamental reasons why the market's love affair with BAE is

cooling. The stark figures of BAE's financing commitments in its annual report may not have been news but details of the group's long-term borrowings and short leases made grim reading.

But the topic causing most concern is BAE's dispute with Raytheon over last year's £250 million sale of the corporate jets business, a

deal everyone thought was cut and dried. The dispute has gone to an independent arbitrator and the two sides may well reach a compromise. But it reminds the City of BAE's seeming inability to complete a deal cleanly, and hardly augurs well in the group's hunt for a joint venture partner for its turbo prop business.



Sherwood

NAMES have not been the only victims of the meltdown at Lloyd's of London. Sherwood is one of many corporate sufferers from the shake-out in the insurance market. The group had made solid profits in the past four years from the computerisation of many Lloyd's underwriting agencies. It used this revenue to diversify and acquire in other areas, including financial services software, housing management software and even stockbroking.

Unfortunately, few of these new business had much time to mature. So when the Lloyd's market shrunk dramatically last year as dozens of syndicates merged or closed, the wheels came off Sherwood's trolley. The result is a predictable succession of operating losses, heavy provisions and the departure of the chairman.

The future for Sherwood looks challenging. Its acquisitions have pushed borrowings to £2.9 million while the provisions have cut net assets

to £4.1 million, increasing gearing to more than 70 per cent. Little wonder the final dividend was passed.

The company cannot hope for much improvement in its business in the Lloyd's market this year which still provides a third of the revenue. But Sherwood will be helped by its success in other financial markets particularly with its Senator system for insurance companies. These and other new products should ensure its survival. As a result the market looked kindly on the company's confidence in its recovery potential yesterday, marking the shares up 23 per cent. At least Sherwood is one participant in the Lloyd's market which has limited liability.

Investors who backed Havelock's 51p rescue rights issue in 1992 are sitting pretty since the shares gained 7 per cent to 177p yesterday, particularly since the group has returned to the dividend list with a 2p pay-out. Even at this price the shares do not look expensive, although they stand on a historic p/e ratio of 21. Given even modest sales growth that rating should quickly fall into the low teens.

Havelock Europa

FEW businesses suffered as badly in the high street recession as shop-fitters, and until last year's turnaround Havelock Europa had been struggling ever since 1988. But now

shoppers are being sighted once more, the big retailers are polishing up their sales floors. Shop-fitting margins have widened at an astonishing speed, with Havelock's rising from 2 per cent to 14 per cent in the space of a year.

Now Havelock is on a stable footing, it is well-positioned to increase turnover. Many smaller shop-fitters have not survived the recession so the company should be able to pick up additional business. Shop interiors in the nineties may not be as sumptuous as they were a decade ago, but they certainly wear out quickly.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 180th Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held at the Head Office, 15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, 3rd May 1994 at 2.30pm for the following purposes:

- To consider the Accounts and Balance Sheets for the year ended 31 December 1993 and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors.
- To re-elect Mr D.C. Ritchie, Mr M.D. Ross, Mr J. Stirling, Mr W.H. Main and Mr N. Scott as Directors.
- To re-appoint Price Waterhouse as Auditors.
- To authorise Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors for the current year.
- To transact any other ordinary business proper to an Annual General Meeting.

Forms of Proxy for the use of Members of the Society who are unable to be present at the Meeting, but who may wish to vote, may be obtained on application to the undersigned. To be effective Proxies must reach the Society's Head Office not less than two clear working days before the time for holding the Meeting. A Proxy need not be a Member of the Society.

Questions may be submitted in advance from Members who themselves or through their Proxy intend to be present at the meeting. These should be in writing and lodged with the undersigned not less than four clear working days before the Meeting.

H. W. RAYMOND, General Manager and Secretary.
15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 5BU.

5 April 1994.

Bentalls back in black thanks to rental income

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

BENTALLS, the department store group, returned to the black thanks to strong sales growth and the benefit of a full year's rental income from the Bentall Centre.

The group, which operates seven department stores in the south-east of England, made pre-tax profits of £1.7 million in the year to January 29, compared with a loss of £986,000 last time.

A final dividend of 1.4p (1.5p) brings the total payout to 2p (1.9p).

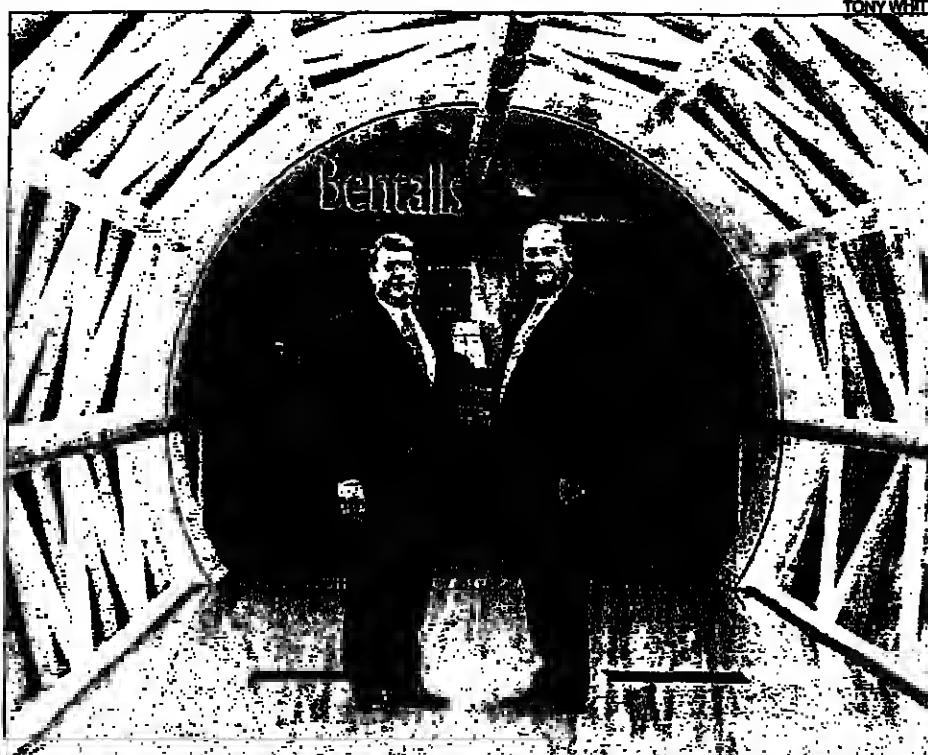
The bottom line was boosted

by a one-off gain of £561,000 from appeals against the uniform business rate valuation for three stores. The group also received £1.65 million of rental income from the Bentall Centre in Kingston upon Thames, which opened in 1992. Let retail space there now totals 86 per cent.

Sales in the department stores increased 11 per cent, with a particularly strong performance from the outlet at Lakeside in Thurrock, Essex. Sales there had been disappointing in the previous year,

but jumped 30 per cent thanks to changes in the product mix. Edward Bentall, chairman, said costs had been tightly controlled. He believes the group has the capacity to run two or three more outlets without increasing central costs and is looking for acquisition opportunities.

Mr Bentall said tax increases had "injected a degree of caution into customers' minds" and the strong growth of sales of last year had slackened. Sales are currently 7 per cent ahead of last year.



Grenville Peacock, left, chief executive, and Edward Bentall at the Bentall Centre

National Provident Institution Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 158th Annual General Meeting of members of National Provident Institution will be held at the City Conference Centre, 76 Mark Lane, London EC3, on Wednesday, 18 May 1994, at 12.00 noon, for the transaction of the following ordinary business.

- To receive and adopt the accounts and report of the directors for the year ended 31 December 1993
- To reappoint directors
- To reappoint Coopers & Lybrand as auditors and to authorise the directors to determine their remuneration.

By order of the Board: S J O'Brien, Secretary, Principal Office, National Provident House, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2UE.

NOTE: A member entitled to attend and vote at the general meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and, on a poll, to vote instead of him or her. A proxy need not be a member of NPI. Proxy forms are available on request from the Company Secretary at the Principal Office. Completed proxy forms should be deposited at the Principal Office not later than 12 noon on 16 May 1994.



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If you would like a copy of NPI's Report and Accounts 1993, write to John Fisher, NPI, GV02C, National Provident House, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2UE.

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Nissan UK planning to be world's most efficient carmaker

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NISSAN Motor Manufacturing UK has launched a drive to become the world's most efficient carmaker by 1996.

The company, which assembles cars at Sunderland, Tyne & Wear, has begun talks with suppliers on cost reductions, and seeks to improve productivity 10 per cent a year. Because of the yen's appreciation in the past 18 months, the UK plant can already make cars 10 per cent more cheaply than its Japanese parent.

However, Ian Gibson, the managing director of Nissan in the UK, believes his plant must overhaul the Japanese productivity lead if it is to win further investment and access to new export markets in the second half of the decade.

"We are looking for a 30 per

cent rise in productivity over three years," he said yesterday. "We aim to be ahead of the best in Japan in three years from 1993."

Terry Hogg, Nissan's UK director of production, said: "Being the best in Europe simply isn't good enough." Japanese car makers had responded to previous strengthening of the yen by finding new ways to improve efficiency, and the Sunderland factory had to make plans in the expectation that they would do so again, he said.

Nissan UK, which builds the Primera saloon and Micra hatchback, has made great progress in closing the efficiency gap with Japanese plants, Mr Hogg said. The number of defective parts

from suppliers had fallen close to Japanese levels and the proportion of just-in-time component deliveries had reached 96 per cent, against 99.98 in Japan.

But slack demand in continental Europe caused the company to cut its workforce by 350 to 4250 last year. With natural wastage running at 5 per cent a year, it is clear more than 130 workers had taken voluntary redundancy by the year's end, and more workers have apparently left since. Production is currently running at 200,000 a year.

□ Nissan Europe is poised to buy out small shareholders who still own 30 per cent of the Barcelona plant.

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Court to decide on Banesto charges

THE caretaker board of Banesto, the bank in which the Bank of Spain intervened four months ago, is due to initiate judicial proceedings in Madrid tomorrow against Mario Condé, the former Banesto chairman, and his board. The court will decide if there will be criminal negligence charges.

Yesterday, Price Waterhouse, Banesto's auditor, hit back at scathing criticism made last Friday by a parliamentary commission that they had failed to spot a £3 billion "black hole" in Banesto's 1992 accounts. Tomas Fernandez de Pinedo, legal spokesman for PW, said: "We carried out [the 1992 audit] strictly by the legal norms and we are not worried in any way. The great deterioration took place in 1993 and affected this entity, with bigger risks, than an entity that is very conservative in giving credit."

Car insurance cheaper

AA INSURANCE expects motor premiums to fall by up to 10 per cent this year. Mark Wood, managing director, said comprehensive rates would be about 1 per cent lower, year on year, by next month, compared with a 23 per cent increase in 1992. AA said comprehensive rates were likely to fall in 1994 by 5 to 10 per cent. Some non-comprehensive premiums are also expected to fall, typically by 2 to 5 per cent. Year-on-year, the rate of increase has slowed to 10.5 per cent compared with 31 per cent in 1992. Mr Wood said comprehensive policyholders were no longer subsidising motorists with third-party insurance.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

DENCORA (Fin)
Pre-tax £1.58m
EPS: 3.7p (LPS: 7.4p)
Div: 3.3p (3p)

WILLIAM JACKS (Fin)
Pre-tax £383,000
EPS: 1.44p (LPS: 6.37p)
Div: Nil (nil)

IFG GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax £732,000
EPS: 1.35p (0.92p)
Div: 0.3p

OEM (Fin)
Pre-tax £92,000 Loss
LPS: 0.6p (EPS: 1.5p)
Div: Nil (nil)

There was a loss of £984,000 last time. Rental income rose to £9.23m (£8.73m). Total turnover grew to £29.6m (£20.6m). NAV: 194p (182p).

There was a loss of £514,000 last time. Turnover advanced to £52.4m (£38.2m). Company said the current year had begun strongly.

All figures are in Irish currency. There was a profit of £528,000 last time. Turnover climbed to £10.3m (£9.83m). Borrowings cut to £2.32m.

There was a profit of £94,000 last time. Total turnover fell to £1.25m (£2.3m). Net assets per share dropped to 20.9p (28.1p).

THE TIMES

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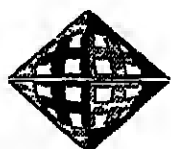
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ACCOUNTANCY

Building an ethics framework

Jack Maurice sees rapid changes
for independence and objectivity

The tempo of ethical change for accountants, at any event in the crucial area of independence and objectivity, is likely, over the coming year, to move from *allegro furioso* to *andante* (*ma non troppo*).

For example, the *Statement on Professional Independence* produced by the UK Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies in October 1979 held sway, without significant amendment, until the Chartered Accountants Joint Ethics Committee (Cajec) published its "all new" guide in 1992.

Since then the independence guidance — now entitled *Integrity, Objectivity and Independence* — has been subjected to four big, and many small changes. The big ones were in such areas as specialist valuations for audit clients, and rotation of audit-engagement partners. They reflect Cajec's level of activity under Jack Worsley, its first chairman. Two big ethical elements are now going through the councils of the three UK and Irish institutes, before they can become effective.

The change in tempo is not in any way an artefact of the change of chairmanship at Cajec, with Brian Currie the successful candidate in the re-

cent elections for ICAEW vice-presidency replacing Jack Worsley. It is rather a manifestation of a radical new approach to issues of independence and objectivity on which Cajec has been working for more than a year. The new approach — labelled, for convenience, "The Framework" — seeks to substitute principle for detail and actuality for supposition, and to provide for firms of chartered accountants guidance in assessing risk and indicating prohibitions.

Cajec and its partner-institutes are not the only bodies anxious about the proliferation of detailed, prescriptive guidance on maintenance of professional objectivity. Inevitably, where guidance (the essence of which is to convey the spirit of proper behaviour) assumes the character of regulations, its readers may be forgiven for assuming whatever is acceptable and may lose sight of the "moral high-ground" not generally found by a search for loopholes.

The AICPA in America was sufficiently moved by the danger to propose to the SEC that it abandoned its current, very specific and extensive rules and commentaries for simple declarations of principle, leav-



Jack Maurice says Cajec has a radical new approach to issues

ing the accountancy firms to work out procedures for their own salvation — subject to monitoring and review. The SEC was less impressed by the possible moral advantages than it was fearful of throwing the (guidance) baby out with the (proscriptive) bath water.

Cajec and the institutes hope to fare better — though some prohibitions will certainly remain. Consultation starts this month on a "Framework-based" new first (introductory) section to the independence guidance — *Integrity and the Reporting Roles, In-*

cluding Audit. Work is in the meantime proceeding on draft substantive guidance on provision of other services to audit clients. The Framework sets out the essence of what ethical guidance on professional independence or objectivity should be concerned with, as follows:

"In order to safeguard their objectivity, members contemplating audit or any other role or engagement requiring objectivity of judgment should consider certain matters before deciding whether to accept the appointment. The matters to be considered fall under the following headings:

- Expectations of those directly affected (and entitled to be affected) by the work.
- Public interest and its bearing on the work.
- Threats to objectivity which may arise actually or potentially because of expectations and the environment.
- Safeguards which are or can be put in place, to offset the threats and risks."

The main aim of Framework-based guidance will be, first to assist auditors to identify the nature of the threats or risks to objectivity involved in accepting or continuing a particular assignment, then to consider whether the recognised available safeguards may be employed to negate (or out to acceptable levels) the threats or risks, and, in the light of these, to reach a conclusion on whether it is safe and proper to proceed. Cajec believes application of the Framework may extend beyond the area of audit independence to all professional decision-makers.

There will still be a place for detailed guidance where needed. An impending Cajec consultation exercise relates to due diligence work and corporate finance advice linked to contingency fees. Copies of the papers and Cajec's annual report for 1993, will be available soon. C4 sac to Cajec, 399 Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes MK9 2HL.

Jack Maurice is secretary of Cajec.

An ocean between the Big Six and the rest

ASSUMING the deal between Arthur Andersen and Binder Hamlyn goes through, the UK accounting services market will look more clear-cut than ever. But it will also make the fragmentation of the groups of firms clearer. With the anomaly of Binder Hamlyn shifted from the no-man's-land between the largest firms and the medium-sized sector, the gulf between the two will be unbridgeable.

Equally such change will galvanise that sector and through mergers and other deals it will become much more clearly defined. That in its turn will make the barrier between the medium-sized firms and the rest wider and more obvious. What we are seeing is something like those diagrams in geography textbooks showing the continents pulling inexorably away from each other. Suddenly you can see wide oceans filling up between clearly defined groups of accounting firms.

The consequences of this will be the hastening of the fragmentation of the profession. The Big Six firms are already, while not a law unto themselves, definitely a separate grouping owing little allegiance to any other sectors of the profession. It was no surprise that when it came to lobbying the Government over limiting their liability earlier in the year there was one document agreed by the big firms and sent in and a separate one from the English ICA a week later. There are probably no hard feelings over the role of the institute as the theoretical leader of the profession. The only senior partner of the large firms who still tends to roar with fury over the institute's perceived ineptitude is John Roques at Touche Ross. For the rest the fact of the matter is that to them the institute really doesn't matter much. They will pay lip service, provide volunteers for committees and speakers for conferences. But it is really a token gesture, one of kindness for a benign yet faltering great-aunt. Not one for someone you feel is a force in the professional world today.

Increasingly big firms will work together at problems which, as far as they are concerned, really only apply to them. They will take the view that they are the people who understand their problems and they will get on and deal with them. Their position as parts of a global network providing financial and business advice and services will be more important than being part of any notional domestic professional structure. It was noticeable when they were preparing their case for arguing the

liability and litigation issue they looked more towards the alliance of professional service firms in the US fighting a similar action than towards advice from UK bodies.

Meanwhile the medium-sized firms will start a prolonged bout of scooping up the smaller firms which they consider useful. There may still be more merger activity from the big firms, pouncing on any firms left with a couple of juicy public company audits remaining. There was a strong rumour a couple of weeks ago that one large firm, presumably Touche Ross, was intending a swift hovering up of three small firms at once. But the real takeover activity is likely to be from the dominant firms in the medium-sized sector clearing up the useful firms further down. Grant Thornton's recent acquisition of Cape & Dalgleish is a pointer to the sort of activity we are likely to see a great deal more of soon.

This will clarify their sector. There is only room for a few firms. They will have to be highly professional in their management and highly professional in their niche in the market means running very fast at all times to retain pre-eminence. The owner-run-able business market will never be stable and comfortable. Client companies which grow fastest will tend to finish up in the clutches of the Big Six. But those which are not growing fast are not going to generate enough in fees to keep the firms happy. The answer is that medium-sized firms will have to develop more expertise in specialist services. The conflicts of interest between the small grouping of the Big Six will leave plenty of openings for the medium-sized. They will never do audits for the largest companies in the



ROBERT BRUCE

land. But high-value services like specialist tax assignments, forensic accounting, insolvency and some corporate finance work should be nice little earners.

Meanwhile the gulf between the few left in that middle sector and the smaller firms, both regional and London-based, will grow. This third grouping will stretch from the ten-partner niche firm in the City or the long-established firm in a market town down to the sole practitioner looking after the tax affairs of the local cabbies. It will in many ways come to resemble the old-fashioned view of the profession. They will provide basic all-round financial advice to small local businesses. It will be hard work, but for the most businesslike and efficient of them it will also be rewarding.

ICA rubs it in

LAST week's collapse into receivership of Accountancy Television, Sir Michael Lickiss' baby, has caused great embarrassment all round. That the English ICA had succumbed to their past-president's enthusiasm for the glamour of television and heavily funded the training service was bad enough. But having lost its members money on the venture, observers thought it somewhat surprising that it appointed

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Buchler Phillips as receiver. After the flak the firm had received from MPs over the Maxwell pensions affair, it was thought a less controversial choice might have been appropriate.

MEN in blue suits have come to the aid of the St Francis Hospice in Romford, which needs £80,000 for vital refurbishment. Its cause has been taken up by The Worshipful Company of Chartered Ac-

countants in England and Wales, a City livery company whose members are drawn from the ICAEW. A grant of £25,000 is made each year for an "area of need" and the money has been set aside until St Francis raises the balance.

Latvia bound

THERE IS no stopping Ernst & Young. It has been chosen by the Latvian Accounting Board (yes, it has one) to pre-

pare two accounting manuals to help to develop financial and management accounting skills there. The project, financed under the European Commission's PHARE programme, is designed to help Latvia make the transition to a market economy. John Howell, E&Y's senior East European partner, said: "We believe the manuals will dramatically change Latvian accounting and improve the quality of management information available for business decisions."

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● Tourism revival in Middle East ● Antarctica protection ● London looks up

Lebanon rises from the ruins

By LOUISE HIDALGO

THREE years after the last shell of the civil war added its part to 17 years of destruction, Lebanon is seeking to re-establish itself as the Riviera of the Middle East.

Next week it is hosting its first tourism conference in 20 years as part of an attempt to put the country, whose name became synonymous with bloodshed and anarchy, back on the tourist map.

Lebanese tourism officials will be seeking to reassure tour operators that Lebanon may now be one of the safer destinations in an increasingly turbulent region as Islamic fundamentalists threaten tourists to Egypt, and Kurdish separatists target them in Turkey.

Nasser Safieddine, director general of Lebanon's National Council of Tourism, is cautiously optimistic that with time, and with peace in the region, Lebanon may once again enjoy its prized reputation as the playground for European tourists in the Middle East. "We must not run before we can walk," he warns. "We are, after all, a Third World country recovering from a long war. But if peace prevails, the whole region will experience a fantastic boom and we are working to ensure we are ready to meet it."

There are already signs that Lebanon's tourism industry, which before

the war accounted for almost a fifth of the country's revenue, is rising from the rubble of war. Under the Lebanese government's ambitious ten-year plan for the country's recovery, \$100 million (£66.6 million) is earmarked for tourism. A revamped marketing strategy, drawing on Lebanon's natural attractions — sea, sun, snow and ancient ruins — is being drawn up with the United Nations Development Programme.

The Société des Grands Hôtels du Liban has signed a management contract with Inter-Continental Hotels to restore the Phoenicia Hotel, one of the great symbols of prewar Beirut life and now a burnt-out shell on the city's famous seafloor. A number of other hotels, including the Mayfair, the Royal Garden and the Berkeley, are either back in business or undergoing renovation, while in Hamra, West Beirut's Piccadilly, new restaurants and bars are opening almost daily.

In yet another sign that Lebanon is at last returning to normal — the government is hoping to reopen the Casino du Liban next year, and there are plans to restart the annual music festival in the Roman temple of Bacchus at Baalbek, where Ella Fitzgerald once sang and the Bolshoi Ballet danced.

Middle East Airlines, the national



Lebanese outlook — Baalbek, where Ella Fitzgerald once sang and the Bolshoi Ballet danced

carrier, is seeking to raise \$100 million to modernise its fleet, which still includes a few old, noisy and smoky Boeing 707s, and there is talk that British Airways may resume direct flights to Beirut later this year.

The task ahead remains enormous, however. Almost two million tourists visited Lebanon in 1974, half of them from Europe and America. This year, the Ministry of Tourism is expecting fewer than half a million, most of them from the Gulf states or expatriate Lebanese returning home. The few Europeans who are visiting are crossing from Syria.

Jules Verne has just become the first British tour operator to start offering tours exclusively to Lebanon, including in its autumn brochure a five-day visit to the ancient ruins of Byblos, Baalbek and Tyre.

Although the security situation has greatly improved since the end of the war, the Foreign Office still advises British tourists not to travel alone in Beirut's southern suburbs or in Baalbek.

Telephone and water services are erratic, while Syrian-manned checkpoints around the capital are a constant reminder of the continuing

presence of a foreign army on Lebanese soil. Beirut's commercial centre, the old front line, remains an eerie mountain of rubble, laced with mines and inhabited by Syrian labourers and squatters from bombed-out villages.

With typical entrepreneurial flair, however, the Lebanese are making advantage of even this adversity. Already the ruins are becoming something of a tourist attraction, with ice-cream vendors and makeshift stalls selling their wares among the bombed-out buildings to the more adventurous visitors.

World cools on polar tourism

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

CONSERVATIONISTS are calling for tough new guidelines to control visitors to Antarctica as officials from 39 nations meet today to discuss protection of the region's fragile environment.

At their annual conference in Kyoto, Japan, countries which make up the Antarctic Treaty are drawing up regulations to control the tour operators who carry increasing numbers of sightseers to the frozen continent.

The World Wide Fund for Nature says more research is needed to discover what impact tourists — as well as the scientists who have been in Antarctica for many years — are having on wildlife. Greenpeace believes clearer guidelines should be widely circulated to all operators.

Last year 6,500 people visited the Antarctic, which covers an area the size of Europe and America combined.

WWF says a new monitoring programme should be agreed now to minimise damage from cruise ships and scientists when parties start arriving in November.

Cassandra Phillips, WWF Antarctic and Whaling officer, said: "When large groups of tourists are taken ashore to the same spot every day for the whole season from November to February, very clear rules need to be in place."

Cruise companies report hundreds of enquiries about

wildlife-watching trips, after a series of television programmes featuring David Attenborough sparked interest in the region.

Meanwhile, a Bill giving greater environmental protection to the Antarctic completed its Commons stages last week, and will be debated in the House of Lords in a few weeks. If passed, it would enable Britain to ratify a proposed addition to the 1959 Antarctic Treaty, which curbs exploitation by mining.

The Antarctic Bill, piloted by Tory former Cabinet minister Michael Jopling (Westmorland and Lonsdale) with backing on all sides, also aims to preserve the region's wildlife and prevent the area being spoiled by tourists.

Permits will be required for all British expeditions to the continent and for all UK aircraft and ship arrivals.

Simon Hather, manager of Columbus Caravelle Explorer Cruises, says that a growing number of tourists are paying £3,000 upwards for 11 to 17-night trips. He said: "The number of enquiries really went up after the BBC series."

Dr John Heap, director of the Scott Polar Research Institute, believes there is room for both scientific work and tourist activity. "Often tourists are the ones who complain most vociferously to governments if they see natural environments being damaged," he said.

Hotel sales are recovering

LONDON's luxury hotels, which have been almost impossible to sell during the recession, are increasingly in demand as an investment.

David Churchill writes.

Hotel sales completed within the past few days include the 132-room Coburg Hotel in Bayswater, bought by the Stakis hotel group from the receivers for an estimated £9.5 million, and the 64-room

Dukes Hotel, in St James's Place, part of the Trafalgar House group, for an undisclosed sum.

Several other smaller London hotels are also reported to have recently changed hands, with a number having been bought from the receivers.

The news will encourage the Toronto-based Four Seasons hotel group to press ahead

with seeking buyers for its two London luxury hotels, the Regent in Marylebone and the Four Seasons (formerly Inn On The Park) on London's Park Lane.

Recovery is also indicated by a report from the management consultancy Parnell Kerr Foster, which says that London hotel occupancy rose by 6 per cent last year to an average of almost 75 per cent.

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• Opening up America • Conservation on ice • Tips come under attack

Will MPs tip out tipping?

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

A BILL to outlaw tipping is to get its second reading in the Commons in June, as an acceptance grows of a need for more controls on service charges in British hotels and restaurants. The British Tourist Authority claims that confusion over how much to tip a waiter or a porter is tarnishing Britain's image because many visitors end up paying twice for service.

Michael Fabricant, the Conservative MP who started the Commons fight to have the charge abolished, says: "Clarification is vital, not only for us, but for the millions of visitors who come to Britain each year and, frankly, feel that they are being ripped off."

The Restaurant Association of Great Britain supports Mr Fabricant's Bill.

The problem is international. In Madrid a 5 per cent tip is acceptable, in Glasgow a waiter would expect 10 per cent, in London diners leave 12 to 15 per cent and in Brussels and other Belgian cities, a 17 per cent service charge is included in the price of a meal.

Singapore's government discourages tipping. In New York, Los Angeles and other American cities, customers are likely to be chased out of the restaurant by aggressive waiters if they fail to tip of at least 15 per cent.

Virgin deal unlocks the sky

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

VIRGIN Atlantic's new deal with the American giant Delta Air Lines could be the key which finally unlocks the door to complete freedom of the skies across the Atlantic.

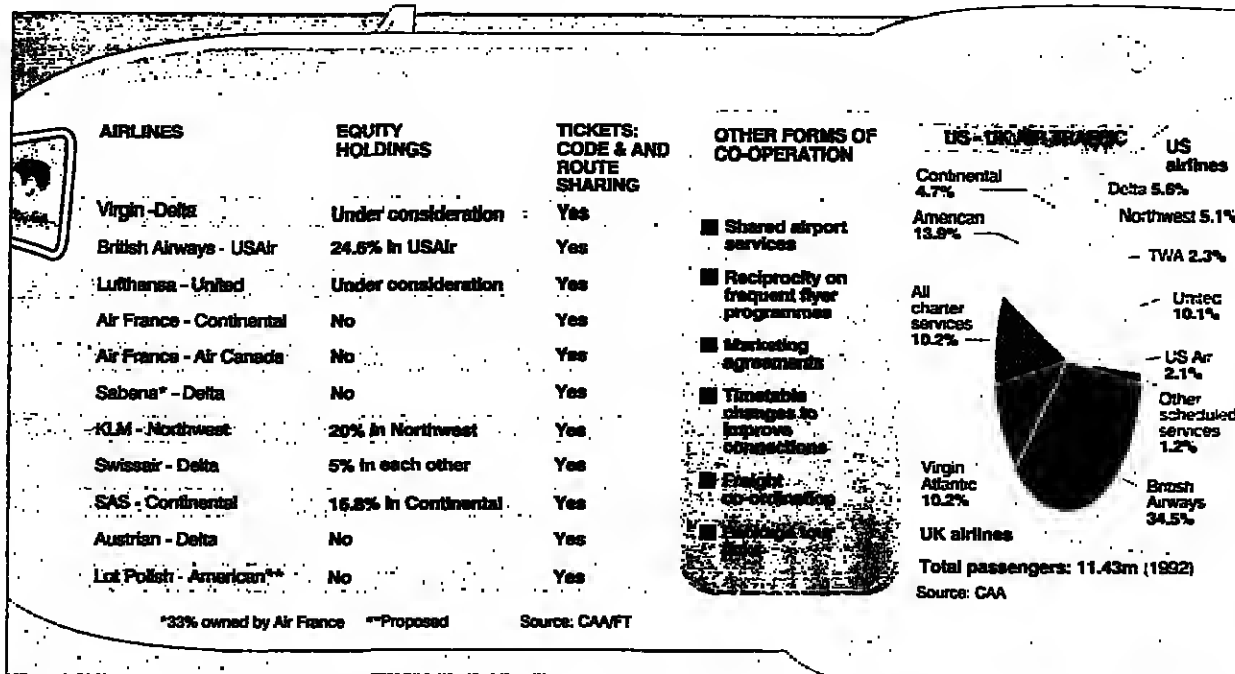
Under the agreement, signed last week between Richard Branson and Delta's Ronald Allen, passengers throughout the United States will be fed from whatever regional airport is served by Delta onto one of Virgin's six transatlantic flights to Heathrow.

Provided both the British and US governments agree to the deal, flights will carry both Virgin and Delta numbers and passengers on both will be able to use each airline's frequent-flyer bonus points system.

The deal, involving Delta taking £100-million worth of block seat bookings on Virgin flights, appears at first sight to have no discernible problem.

But already pressure is growing both from governments and the aviation industry in the United States to end what many regard as the "unfair force" of such code-sharing deals and to re-open the stalled bilateral negotiations between Britain and America aimed at creating genuine competition.

Over the past three years, airlines throughout Europe have made their own separate marketing and "code-sharing" deals with one or other of the six main US international



carriers. As a result, the negotiators on both sides of the Atlantic believe they are being somewhat outflanked. Until now, they have been prepared to go along with the arrangements.

They fear that airlines which cannot make a link-up could be frozen out completely, while the code-sharing deals themselves take the place of genuine bilateral agreements.

The recent British Airways/USAir deal has received approval for only one year

and, significantly, the Virgin/Delta deal is also scheduled to run for only one year, from July.

It is being argued that this is the time to completely renegotiate the basic air services agreement between Britain and America. The Americans say that they must be given much more access to Heathrow if such negotiations are to succeed. But Britain says the airport is already full and that before any further concessions can be made, Britain's two transatlantic airlines — Virgin

and BA — must be allowed to fly more freely in the US.

While the negotiators refuse to move from their entrenched positions, the airlines appear to have found a neat solution to the problem. Through Virgin, Delta now effectively has access to Heathrow while, by using Delta, Virgin has opened up hundreds of additional routes within the United States.

If the American carriers are to be given free access to Heathrow the problem of overcrowding will have to be

overcome. Already a solution has been suggested — selling the slots on the open market.

American Airlines say they would be prepared to pay up to \$8 million for a single takeoff slot and a further \$8 million to land at Heathrow. There are many smaller airlines, as well as some big international carriers, who would grab such a chance, even if it did mean their moving to Stansted or Gatwick in return.

The allocation of slots has, however, become a European

Union issue and, before such a radical solution could be put into effect, Brussels would have to be involved.

Naturally, senior management of British Airways are not enthusiastic about the suggestion because it would provide fierce and direct competition for them on their own hearth. They are quite happy for the Virgin/Delta deal to be given the go-ahead as it stands, believing that it will have three very positive benefits for BA. These are:

- If the code-sharing arrangement is approved, then their own arrangement with USAir must be, too.
- Mr Branson, who has complained loudly to the EC about other code-sharing deals in Europe could hardly now continue his campaign.
- Thousands of Americans will discover the kind of service which seems to come naturally both to Virgin and British Airways — and when they compare it with the inferior service on their own domestic airlines they will switch to a British airline. Both will, therefore, benefit.

Whatever the outcome, the few dozen civil servants in Britain and America who earn their living from talking to each other about the arcane problems of bilateral air service agreements, have been stirred into new life. It could be that they are about to make decision which could revolutionise transatlantic air travel — and finally give the passenger a real choice.

TRAVELOGS

Buckets crackdown

A campaign to protect the public from unlicensed air ticket "bucket shops" has been launched after research showed many were operating illegally.

The crackdown should be complete by the summer.

Under the system, which developed more than 20 years ago, airline and holiday company operations are usually covered by the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (ATOL) system.

This enables holidaymakers, stuck abroad in a tour operator collapse, to be brought home when a tour operator collapses and gives would-be travellers their money back.

However, the rules are far looser for sea-only operators, which often sell tickets at knockdown prices. The Civil Aviation Authority now says it will prosecute agencies that sell tickets without an ATOL licence.

Beached

THE British Resorts Association, which represents coastal towns from the Channel Islands to the north of Scotland, is considering a new campaign to change the public image of UK beaches as cold and windswept.

Holidaymakers could soon be wooed with the slogan: "Make the most of your coast". The association has made approaches to the tourist boards of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales to pool advertising resources.

Tourists shun seal tours

By ROBI DUTTA

SEAL-WATCHING tours in eastern Canada have slumped this year because animal lovers feel that seal watching and hunting are incompatible, a survey shows.

Holiday bookings with Natural Habitat, the largest seal-watch tour operator in Canada, have fallen by a third to just over 200 this year, although nature-watching tours are generally the fastest-growing niche market in travel. The independent survey, commissioned by the International Fund for Animal Wel-

fare (IFAW), showed that 83 per cent of potential wildlife tourists will not go to Canada because of their strong anti-hunt feelings.

Despite the fact that fewer seals than ever before were hunted last year, emotive media reporting on the industry has discouraged seal-watching tourists, according to Ben Bressler, of Natural Habitat, which has been running tours to the Gulf of St Lawrence since 1988.

He said: "These people clearly find that the idea of a wildlife holiday where those same animals are being hunt-

ed is unacceptable." Sealers, however, argue that hunting — which is carried out between mid-May and mid-June — is compatible with tourism because wildlife enthusiasts only come to watch the "white coats", or baby harp seals, which hunters are banned from killing. The three-week tourist season is in March.

Animal welfare groups such as IFAW believe that eco-tourism can bring more money into the local economy than seal hunting. Most tourists are from America, Japan, Britain, France, Holland and Germany.



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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

To the shareholders of

GN Great Nordic Ltd.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held on Tuesday 3 May 1994 at 11.00 am at Industriens Hus, H.C. Andersens Boulevard 18, DK-2300 Copenhagen V, to transact the following business:

- To receive and consider the report for the year ended 31 December 1993.
- To receive and adopt the annual financial statements and discharge the Board of Directors and the Management from their obligations.
- To consider and, if thought fit, pass a resolution for the distribution of the net profit for the year, including the declaration of a dividend on the shares of the Company.
- To consider and, if thought fit, pass a resolution proposed by the Board of Directors that convertible bonds at a face value between DKK 300 million and DKK 350 million, without offering the Company's existing shareholders any pre-emptive right of subscription, be issued at a price of 105 per cent of their face value, which bonds shall bear interest at the rate of 10 per cent per annum and be due for redemption in the year 2001 or earlier. This resolution shall include a resolution to lay down the "Terms and Conditions of a Convertible Bond Loan" at an interim conversion price of (...) and resolutions to amend the Articles of Association of the Company in consequence of the issue of convertible bonds.
- To consider and, if thought fit, endorse the decision by the Board of Directors to sell up to 30,000 shares of the Company's holding of own shares to members of the Group staff, ex subscription rights, at a price of DKK 250 per share.
- To consider and, if thought fit, pass a resolution proposed by the Board of Directors that the Company be entitled to acquire up to 10 per cent of its own shares.
- To elect Directors in the place of those retiring.
- To appoint two auditors for the current financial year.

The final coupon rate and conversion price relating to the resolutions set out under item d. above will be determined by the Board of Directors at the time when the bonds are offered for sale with a view to ensuring that the offer is made at market price. Proposal for preliminary conversion price and preliminary coupon rate will be available for inspection at the Company's registered office in Copenhagen and in London and Paris and will be posted to any shareholder registered by the Company eight days prior to the annual general meeting as required under Article 15 of the Articles of Association.

For the passing of the resolution set out under item d. on the agenda, it is required under Article 16 of the Articles of Association that at least one quarter of the share capital be represented at the general meeting and that the resolution be carried by at least two thirds of the votes cast and two thirds of the voting share capital represented at the general meeting. In the event that the required amount of the share capital is not represented, but where the resolution is carried by the above-mentioned qualified majority of votes, another general meeting shall be convened for the transaction of that particular business, at which meeting the resolution will be carried. Irrespective of the amount of the voting share capital represented at the general meeting, if two thirds of the votes cast are in favour of the resolution, from Monday 25 April 1994 the agenda and the full and complete resolutions to be proposed at the general meeting, as well as the annual financial statements and consolidated accounts with the Auditor's Report and the Report of the Directors, will be available for inspection by the shareholders at the Company's registered office at Kongens Nytorv 26, second floor, and in London and Paris, and not later than eight days prior to the general meeting the said material will be posted to any shareholder on the Company's register of members to such address as has been given to the Company.

Admission cards to the general meeting will, until five days prior to the meeting, be available at request from the Company's office on all weekdays (excluding Saturdays) between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm to any shareholder who can prove a good title to his shares. As far as bearer shares are concerned, the shareholder shall prove his title to such shares by presenting a statement of his holding of shares in the Company, dated 21 April 1994 and issued by the shareholder's account-holding bank.

Any right to vote shall be conditional upon the voting share being registered in the name of the shareholder and entered in the register of members maintained by the Company and upon the shareholder being entitled to attend the meeting pursuant to the above-mentioned provisions. Where the shareholder has transferred his share by way of transfer, the share shall furthermore be registered in the name of the shareholder by the time when the general meeting is convened.

Copenhagen, 18 April 1994.

The Board of Directors

GN Great Nordic Ltd.

At its meeting on 19 April 1994 the Company's Board of Directors passed a resolution to increase its share capital by a nominal amount of DKK 85,254,600 pursuant to the authority contained in the Articles of Association. The shares are offered with pre-emptive rights for the Company's existing shareholders.

Furthermore, the Board of Directors will recommend to the shareholders of the Company in General Meeting on 3 May 1994 that they pass a resolution to raise a loan for a nominal amount of between DKK 300 million and DKK 350 million by the issue of convertible bonds to be offered at market price.

Pre-emptive rights Offering - New Shares

Offer Amount 852,546 New Shares of DKK 100 nominal value each, corresponding to DKK 85,254,600, nominal value, are offered for subscription giving existing shareholders pre-emptive rights to subscribe in the proportion of 1:6, so that a holding of six Existing Shares of DKK 100 nominal value each entitles the holder to subscribe for one New Share of DKK 100 nominal value.

Offer Price DKK 430 per share of DKK 100 nominal value, free of brokerage.

Offer Period The Offer Period for the New Shares opens on 5 May and closes on 19 May 1994.

Holders of Rights may subscribe for New Shares by submitting their applications through their own account-holding bank. After expiry of the Offer Period the Rights to subscribe for New Shares will be of no value.

Underwriting The Offering is underwritten and the Underwriters are committed to take and pay for any unsubscribed New Shares to the effect that all the shares offered will be subscribed for.

Trading in Rights The Rights to subscribe for New Shares will be traded on the Copenhagen Stock Exchange as from 2 May to 16 May 1994, inclusive.

Listing The New Shares will be listed on the Copenhagen Stock Exchange and an application will be filed with the London Stock Exchange for admission of the New Shares to its Official List as from 2 May 1994.

Dividends The New Shares will be eligible for all dividends declared or paid as from the 1994 financial year.

Offering at market price - Convertible Bonds Subject to approval by the Annual General Meeting Convertible Bonds for a nominal value of DKK 300 million are offered for subscription.

On behalf of the Underwriters the Lead Manager has been granted an option exercisable until 20 May 1994 to purchase Additional Bonds for a nominal value of up to DKK 30 million.

Offer Price DKK 105 per Convertible Bond of DKK 100 nominal value, free of brokerage.

Over-subscription In the event that the applications received to subscribe for the Convertible Bonds exceed the original invitation, applicants who have submitted their request at an early date in the Offer Period will be given preference. Furthermore, preference will be given to investors whose investments are considered to be of a long-term nature.

Settlement The Convertible Bonds subscribed for are to be paid for in cash upon subscription on 26 May 1994 against registration of the Convertible Bonds in the purchaser's account with the Danish Securities Centre.

Offer Period The Offer Period for the Convertible Bonds opens on 3 May and closes on 6 May 1994. Subscription may be discontinued after the first day of the Offer Period.

Coupon and Conversion Price The coupon and Conversion Price will finally be fixed at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 3 May 1994 and published immediately thereafter.

Offering Circular The Offering Circular containing details on GN Great Nordic Ltd. and the complete terms and conditions of the Offering may be obtained from the Underwriters as well as Danish banks and stockbroking companies.

Underwriters Unibank (Lead Manager), Den Danske Bank, S.G. Warburg Securities and Hambros Bank.

Copenhagen, 19 April 1994

GN Great Nordic Ltd.

GN Great Nordic Holding Ltd.

At its meeting on 19 April 1994 the Company's Board of Directors passed a resolution to increase its share capital by a nominal amount of DKK 35,100,000 pursuant to the authority contained in the Articles of Association. The shares are offered with pre-emptive rights for the Company's existing shareholders.

The Company is offering 351,000 New Shares of DKK 100 nominal value each with pre-emptive rights for the Company's existing shareholders in the proportion of 2:7, so that a holding of seven Existing Shares of DKK 100 nominal value each entitles the holder to subscribe for two New Shares of DKK 100 nominal value each.

Offer Price DKK 410 per share of DKK 100 nominal value, free of brokerage.

Offer Period The Offer Period for the New Shares opens on 5 May and closes on 19 May 1994.

Holders of Rights may subscribe for New Shares by submitting their applications through their own account-holding bank. After expiry of the Offer Period the Rights to subscribe for New Shares will be of no value.

Underwriting The Offering is underwritten and the Underwriters are committed to take and pay for any unsubscribed New Shares to the effect that all the shares offered will be subscribed for.

Trading in Rights The Rights to subscribe for New Shares will be listed on the Copenhagen Stock Exchange and may be traded as from 2 May to 16 May 1994, inclusive.

Listing The New Shares will be listed on the Copenhagen Stock Exchange and an application will be filed with the London Stock Exchange for admission of the New Shares to its Official List as from 2 May 1994.

Dividends The New Shares will be eligible for all dividends declared or paid as from the 1994/95 financial year.

Offering Circular The Offering Circular containing details on GN Great Nordic Holding Ltd. and the complete terms and conditions of the Offering may be obtained from the Underwriters as well as Danish banks and stockbroking companies.

Underwriters Unibank (Lead Manager), Den Danske Bank, S.G. Warburg Securities and Hambros Bank.

Copenhagen, 19 April 1994

GN Great Nordic Holding Ltd.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ASLEY, JAMES ASLEY late of 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

ASLEY, JAMES ASLEY late of 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834



THEATRE page 38
A new Norma Desmond,
and much tightening-up,
for Lloyd Webber's
Sunset Boulevard

ARTS

VISUAL ART page 39
Back to the easel: Sir
Roger de Grey on his
Royal Academy years
and his new exhibition



CINEMA: Geoff Brown watches through his fingers as British film expertise goes for the jugular in *Beyond Bedlam*

Carry on screaming (and feeling sick)

A h, a British film. To start things off, a human form leaps, in flames, from an ominous building. Then we meet Marc Gilmour: shaven-headed serial killer, residing now in a darkened cell at the Institute for Neurological Research, where a woman scientist injects his brain with a nifty new substance that appears to be called BEND. Violent images leap from mind to mind; the dead materialise, oozing blood. At the end, the principals batter themselves senseless in a basement laundry full of pipes, drips, clankings and shrieks. The title? *Beyond Bedlam*.

No plus-fours or butlers in this one, then. But we need not be surprised. Before British cinema became identified only with well-bred dramas, the gay avant-garde, Peter Greenaway conundrums or party politicals from Channel 4, there were always Hammer's horrors. So if popular genre film-making is to return to this country — and assorted young directors are trying hard to bring it about — blood, gore and guts should be expected.

The only surprise is the director in question. Vadim Jean and his producer Paul Brooks were both progenitors of that coarsely low-budget kosher romp *Leon the Pig Farmer*. But here any comedy on display is cruel, jet-black, and the only notable Jewish touch is the portrayal of the detective hero's dead wife (Anita Dobson), a motherly soul with a weeping bullet-hole in her chest.

Jean, and his colleagues take the bold change of style in their stride. Judged purely on the visual level, *Beyond Bedlam* showers the viewer with fantastic sights. Camera-man Gavin Finney uses a bizarre spectrum of colours dominated by blue and amber, while a wonderfully dank, gothic ambience permeates the corridors and rooms of the disused Friern mental hospital in North London that served as location and studio. This is confident, full-bodied movie-making.

It is hard, however, to be as euphoric about the script, derived from Harry Adam Knight's novel *Bedlam*. Leaving the violence aside, the hard-bitten detective played by Craig Fairbrass is a

thoroughgoing bore, while the brain meddling practised by Elizabeth Hurley's scientist strains credibility too far. She is more convincing as the woman in peril — hair unpinned, the scientist clothes exchanged for a T-shirt — fighting the nightmares spun by Keith Allen's Gilmour, a character 100 per cent nasty.

As for the nightmares themselves, they are par for the course in these sad days. Time was when horror films kept a light, mocking distance from their shocks. Now young audiences want and get a full-frontal assault. *Beyond Bedlam* does not stint itself, and yanks in Fauré's *Requiem* on the soundtrack to give the action a particularly distasteful, grandiose touch. Applause, then, for the film-makers' vigour, but boos for their unsavoury material.

Cinema-goers can experience the full horror from tomorrow; but since the British Board of Film Classification has just withdrawn its video certificate,

Beyond Bedlam
MGM Trocadero
18, 95 mins
Vigorous but unsavoury
British shocker

Sonatine
ICA Cinema, 94 mins
Quirky Japanese
bloodbath

Painted Heart
Metro, 15, 91 mins
Failed attempt at
off-beat Americana

Back in the USSR
Warner West End
15, 87 mins
Dull pathos
shot in Moscow

prospective home viewers will have to wait much, much longer.

To anyone unfamiliar with the Japanese director and media star Takeshi Kitano, his film *Sonatine* may be something of a mystery. One minute bullets fly and bodies fall with sudden, icy brutality, as bands of gangsters fight for supremacy in Okinawa. The next, those persons still left alive lark around with guns, seaweed and a soft-drink can on a beautiful beach, under a piercing blue sky.

Whatever the mood, the leading character Murakawa, played by the director under his acting nickname "Beat" Takeshi, adopts a frozen face that suggests a huge existential death wish. Is this a yakuza thriller, an art movie diversion, or what?

Essentially, what Takeshi has done is to yoke together two separate styles pursued in the three previous films since this extraordinary character — actor, stand-up comic and television personality — took up directing in 1989. The idyll by the beach recalls the tender, poetic simplicity of the mesmerising *A Scene at the Sea*. The quirky brand of bloodshed harks back to *Violent Cop* and



Keith Allen attempts to show that anything Hannibal Lecter does he can do more terrifyingly as Marc Gilmour, the serial killer who goes well *Beyond Bedlam*

Boiling Point, films whose casual violence can churn even an experienced stomach.

The result is a bizarre and awkward hybrid: for Western tastes, sensitivity and violence make strange bedfellows. But Takeshi's strong visual eye and elliptical manner (he serves, importantly, as his own editor) always keep our eyes glued to the screen. *Sonatine* takes you by surprise — sometimes pleasantly, sometimes not a valuable asset in a world dominated by Identikit films.

Adolf Hitler taught the world a long while ago that it pays to be wary of housepainters. Wesley and Willie, two characters from *Painted Heart*, a dim-witted American

independent film, prove the point yet again. Both with several screws loose, they humiliate around a forsaken suburban corner of Wisconsin, nursing dark secrets as they slap paint on walls. While Wesley (Will Patton) makes a serious play for Willie's dissatisfied wife, Willie (Robert Pastorelli) exorcises childhood pains by hunting drunken derelicts and...

But why rob prospective viewers of one of the few dramatic highlights? Up until then, Michael Taav's film — a first feature — limps along, trying to please with a goofy depiction of small-town life, where there is not much to do outside work except drink, loaf, and get your hair cut.

If the jokes were funnier, the direction and playing sharper, the film might possibly scrape by as a pale copy of the lunatic Americana regularly purveyed by David Lynch or the Coen brothers. But nearly everyone falls down on the job, from Patton (unusually ineffective as the lovesick painter) to the writer-director, an experienced playwright.

The chief exception is Pastorelli. Equipped with ungainly hair and specs, six o'clock shadow and pens crammed into his breast pocket, he conveys an aura of whispered menace, and hints at what the film might have been. It dates, incidentally, from 1992, and was originally called *The Paint Job*.

The final nail in the week's coffin is *Back in the USSR*, an American-Russian endeavour that joins the long list of dubious benefits from Communism's collapse. True, Western cameras can now roam all over Moscow, from the GUM department store to the most tedious of airport runways; and a young American lead, Frank Whaley, can be pitched into the post-glasnost world of smugglers and black marketeers. But unless you can boast an interesting script and a believable cast, you still have not made a film worth seeing.

"I wanted to see real life, the real Russia," Whaley's student bleats on the soundtrack near the start. What

Deran Sarafian's film offers instead is a B-movie Russia, where thugs and their go-betweens dance tedious circles around a stolen icon called the Black Madonna, where authentic faces are thrown aside for the delights of international casting.

The beautiful prostitute Whaley falls for might well be Natalya Negoda, famous star of the groundbreaking Soviet film *Little Vera*. But look at the major villains: Roman Polanski, paying the hills with a little bad acting, and Brian Blessed, doing what comes naturally. If *Back in the USSR* were worse than it is, it might actually be more enjoyable. As matters stand, you are faced with a dull mediocrity.

THERE are the ingredients for a really good revival of Bizet's *Carmen* here. In the title role the Russian mezzo Elena Zarembo looks the part, sounds the part, and more: she has style. Her dusky tone is beautifully even from top to bottom — no gear changes — and, apart from a couple of ungainly lunges in the Habanera, her singing has real class. Her appearance is so naturally alluring that she has no need to act the vamp: instead, playing almost entirely from the eyes, she emphasises Carmen's wit and self-confidence in an ideally laid-back, cool impersonation. It is a long time since any of us have heard Don José as easily sung as he is by Richard Margison. His tenor is fresh and athletic, encompassing proper delicacy in the duet with Micaëla and with a thrillingly heroic delivery of the third-act finale. Both he and Zarembo have clear French. All that is needed is for someone to dissuade them from turning the final scene

OPERA at Covent Garden

Almost a triumph



Elena Zarembo (*Carmen*) and Gino Quilico (*Escamillo*)

into a screaming match: Carmen and José are two premeditative creatures in icy control of their joint destiny, not a pair of alley cats. Marie McLaughlin returns as Micaëla, her pure soprano and game manner perfect for

the role. A treasure artist, she is not always at her best on first nights: her pitch needed jacking up by a microphone in the first act. Gino Quilico commands the fearsome range for Escamillo and, a clever actor, powerfully sug-

gests the man's overweening vanity. His last-act entrance is a collector's item of male exhibitionism.

Best of all is the presence of a conductor, Jacques Delacôte, who really understands the score. His reading is brisk, elegant and witty, throwing the darker moments into even sharper relief. The evening tangles with excitement, with the choruses outside the bull-ring especially invigorating.

If only someone would decide which version of *Carmen* the company is electing to play this week. There are bits of Oser here, bits of Guiraud there — why can't we just have Bizet? There was a particularly embarrassing hiatus when no one could quite decide what followed the first-act children's chorus: certainly not the little *melodrame* we had last time round. Eventually conductor or orchestra hesitantly opted for the exit music, the kids were hustled off stage, and the opera stumbled on.

RODNEY MILNES

BROADWAY

Laugh until it hurts

Jackie Mason —
Politically Incorrect
Golden Theater, New York

JACKIE Mason can be extremely insulting. Lawyers, militant feminists and all of New York's Indian-born cab drivers are particularly advised to stay away from his one-man Broadway show. What redeems the evening is that Mason clearly believes in equal-opportunity insults: by the end it is difficult to think of any section or sub-section of the population that has not picked up a flesh wound from one of his barbs.

A slightly incongruous fusion of stand-up comedy and undiluted rant, *Politically Incorrect* gives Mason a platform to vent his feelings on what he perceives as the despoiling of the American dream. It goes without saying that with the latter part of the show containing an extended harangue over White-water and a list of Bill Clinton's broken promises, Mason does not have much to say for Nixon, Reagan or Bush either, but the virulence of his attack on the Clintons comes from what is obviously a feeling of personal betrayal. In the wrong hands this could all

become oppressively self-righteous. There are passages, indeed, when Mason is much too interested in lecturing rather than amusing his audience. When he works himself up to denounce Tonya Harding or the feckless Menendez twins, his sense of disgust renders him almost incoherent. Using the F-word again and again, he sounds

merely like a rather tired, irritable, and above all unfunny radio talkshow host.

But these are lapses. The rest of the performance is vintage Mason, still full of the flavour of the Borscht Belt clubs where he plied his trade for so many years. No one tells self-deprecating Jewish jokes with quite as much aplomb, and it is this willingness to laugh at himself and his own background that lifts him far above the level of malevolent rabble-rousers. He is much closer in spirit to, say, Dave Allen than Bernard Manning.

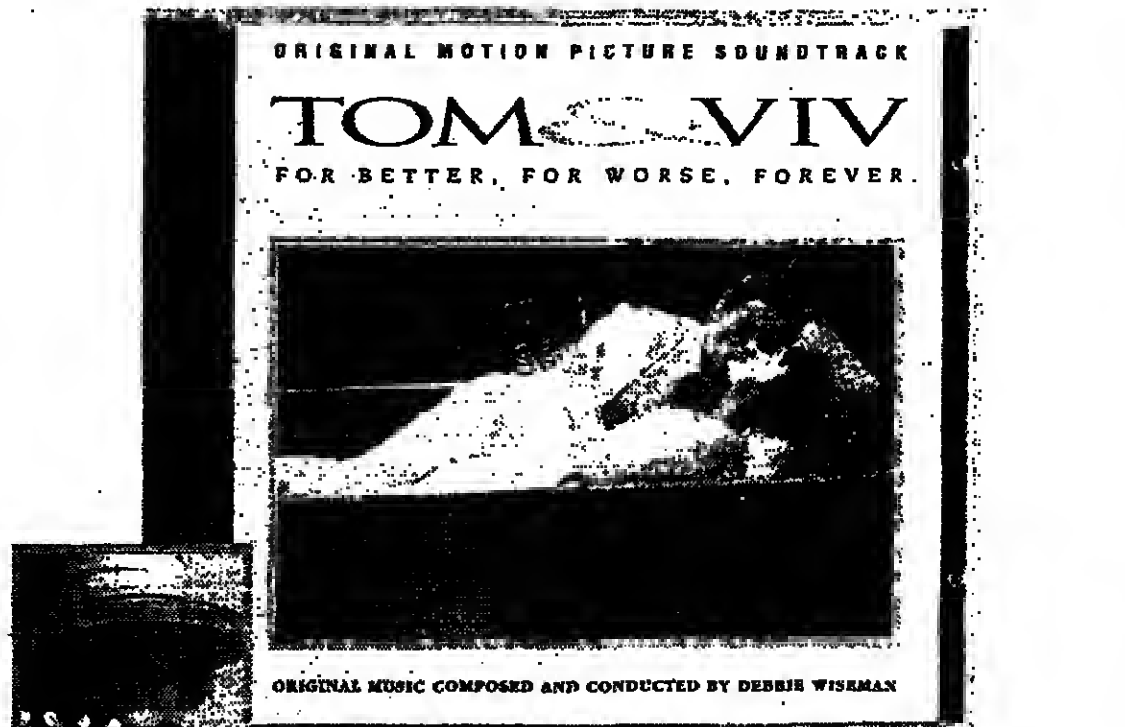
A brilliantly observed routine about Jewish hypochondria was the highlight of the first half. Mason performing contortions as he portrayed an elderly man describing his many ailments to every passer-by. Mason's real enemy is human folly and pretension. Worried that my own PC detection meter might be affected by jet-lag I took along an impeccably liberal professor of English. He laughed even more than I did.

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LONDON

LEIPZIG ON TOUR: The 500th anniversary season for the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra is being marked by a grand European tour under Kurt Masur. Its musical director for the last 23 years, he is returning to the Gewandhaus with a programme of Schumann, Schubert and lots of Mendelssohn. Two fine vocalists are the soloists: Victoria Mullova and Sarah Chang.

LES PARENTS TERRIBLES: Following on from the National's Olivier successes earlier this week, Simon Mottram directs a splendid cast of Cocker's drama of a family torn apart by the deaths of a young son and a young daughter. National Theatre (Lyttelton), South Bank SE1 (071-338 2232). Openings: 7pm Tomorrow and Sat, 7.30pm Sat, 2.15pm Sun.

JEPPE OF THE HILL: First night of previews for the English premiere of a 1722 comedy from Ludwig Holberg. Known as the Danish Moliere, Holberg took the peasant as his inspiration and produced one of the best-loved comedies in Scandinavian literature. A drunken peasant forced into a life of reality is the story. Gaiety, Pembroke Rd W11 (071-229 0700). Previews: 7.30pm. Openings: Apr 25 until May 21.

MARQUIS RABETZ: The work of this prominent Swiss artist may seem

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Krie Anderson

neighbour, but it does produce some eye-opening surprises. Clusters of lamps or leaves suddenly turn into heads and bodies when viewed from particular angles, or a man is transformed into a robot with the addition of a computer. Ideal for a family visit after a walk in the park.

Elsewhere
Surrealist Gallery, Kensington Gardens W2 (071-402 6076). Daily, 10am-5pm; until Sun.

BASINGSTOKE: Brian Blessed and Hologram's Neil and his wife as the royal couple in James Cocker's sharp-edged political drama *The Lion in Winter*. Playhouse, Walsley St (0238 455555). Openings: 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; Sun, 2.15pm. Until May 21.

BIRMINGHAM: Simon Rattle and the CBSO perform Tippett's *Fourth Symphony*, a work known as "The one with the heavy breathing". Played tonight in tandem with the same symphony that accompanied it at the premiere in Chicago. Brudenell's, Birmingham (091-278 8919). Tonight: 7.45pm. Then Sat, 2pm.

DEAD FUNNY: Terry Johnson's complex (perhaps too much so) web of comic characters between a sexually abused man and his wife. With Zoe Wanjiku and David Hogg. Waverley, Strand, WC2 (071-878 6575). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; Sun, 2.15pm.

ERASMUS MONTANUS: Return of Holberg's clever comedy, delightfully staged. A young Danish pig goes back to the farm, armed with a dagger and a new perspective on life. Gaiety, Pembroke Rd W11 (071-229 0700). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.15pm.

AN EVENING WITH PETER USTINOV: The company of a clever, cultured and witty man of many worlds. One of the world's most respected theatre actors returns for four weeks only. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-530 8800). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.15pm.

HOT SHOE SHUFFLE: A musical about seven top dancing brothers and their long-lost sister. Exuberantly done and very slick, with lots of big band music. Gaiety, Pembroke Rd W11 (071-229 0700). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.15pm.

JANE EYRE: Alexandra Maslin and Tim Pigott-Smith do their best at Fey Weldon's puzzling version of the well-known melodrama. Playhouse, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (071-838 4401). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; Sun, 2.15pm.

LITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE ENGLISH: Revival of David Hogg's classic 1960s art-house comedy, in which Malcolm Scowthorne and his

LEICESTER: First night of previews for *The Last Years*, Arthur Miller's subtle drama of two married couples and the shadows of expectations unfulfilled. Tai Rubin directs. Haymarket, Brompton Rd SW1 (071-530 8800). Tonight: 7.30pm. Openings: Apr 26, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.15pm.

MANCHESTER: A touring exhibition of the St Paul's pre-abstractist Roger Hilton opens here today. Hilton's paintings at their best are powerfully coloured, their shapes clearly defined, recording the world around him. The show also includes 40 small gouaches, produced in the last few years of his life, which are much changed from his more abstract work. Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Oxford Road M13 9PL (0161 275 4955). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Thurs until 9pm. Until June 11.

LONDON GALLERIES

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London today

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Any pacier this time round? Jeremy Kingston reviews the revamped Lloyd Webber musical

Fading star perks up for a second take

IN THE history of piano concertos and of operas, numerous cases exist of a work that has been premiered and then withdrawn for a composer to tinker with. Chuck out a movement, scrap this character, insert another. Generally, these changes are made because the critics, splitting in packs, hated what they were offered first time round.

Since the London critics found much to enjoy in *Sunset Boulevard* last June, what Andrew Lloyd Webber has done must be an extremely rare example of a composer halting his creation nine months into a successful run in order to introduce aesthetic improvements. Alterations have been made to the sound, the look and the speed, and the last of these three depends on the first. There still remain passages where the music stops, notably during poor Joe Gillis's first meeting with the imperious Norma, but while this new *Sunset* has not become one of Lloyd Webber's sung-through musicals, there is now a musical accompaniment to most scenes.

The effect is to give a greater momentum to the story, which moves between the cavernous, treasure-house of the Desmond mansion and a succession of smaller spaces. Hollywood rooms and offices, with a couple of visits to the Paramount studios where De Mille is shooting *Samson and Delilah*. Those movements now become continuous. Perhaps even the set-changes are taken faster.

In the story's original form, the first half hung fire. This is no longer quite true. Quicker to present the bones of the conflict, the development still takes a scene too many or too long to arrive at Joe's submission on New Year's Eve.

KING Claudius looks like Toad of Toad Hall at *La Cage aux Folles*. Fat, with thick spectacles and lavish amounts of lipstick, he holds sway in a vivid green suit and scarlet gloves. Polonius, preaching moral rectitude, tiptoes around in purple high heels with hunched shoulders, like an old man out of Moliere turned camp.

Gertrude is somewhere between Walt Disney's Wicked Queen and an Ugly Sister, while Ophelia, in striped stockings, seems to be Alice in Wonderland in her pink phase. Other Elsinore courtiers are cabaret illusionists.

Julia Bardsey's production is boldly alternative (hence, presumably, the question-mark inserted in the title) but it is not subtle. Key elements of Shakespeare's original are lost including, surprisingly perhaps, the comedy. The cast are not fully at home with Elizabethan metre and, generally, the

acting is a bit off. Doubling, both of people with puppets (Hamlet holding a marionette) and of parts (Metin Marlow as Laertes and Polonius) focuses the play's absorption with parent-child relationships and twinned identities. Yet Marlow's Laertes is too old and Natasha Pope is spreading characterisation pretty thin through Gertrude and Ophelia. Hamlet (Rory

Sunset Boulevard

Adelphi

Lloyd Webber's music and Trevor Nunn's direction have together brought greater drive: John Napier's terrific sets have, I suspect, grown darker: twisted columns, suffocating drapery and the great curving staircase up-turned to the ceiling. The scenes where this huge interior rises into the air, with its human occupants still mounting the stairs, to make space for the partying youngsters elsewhere in town, is an amazing technical achievement and a resourceful piece of plot-maker's art, allowing us to see Norma's gathering despair at the same time as Joe is enjoying himself away from her.

Betty Buckley sings almost too well for Norma. The high notes Lloyd Webber favours (for male singers too) take individual character from the roles when they appear. When Buckley is given deep and furious growls to sing she is far closer to the mad Norma Desmond we carry in our memory from the Wilder film.

John Barrowman, the new Joe, convincingly suggests self-disgust in two solo numbers and has the puppyish young looks that suit his decline into the status of kept boy. And as there is a greater age difference between them this time round, the resentment and distaste is that much more convincing.

I prefer the black and white, non-singing movie, but the musical version, and this year's more than last, shines with its own sultry grandeur.

THEATRE: Shakespeare unsuccessfully camped up

Whether 'tis nobler to wear thick lipstick

Hamlet? Young Vic

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Ready for our close-ups now, Mr De Mille: Betty Buckley and John Barrowman, Norma and Joe in Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard*

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When Sir Roger de Grey had to retire as president of the Royal Academy it was a shock. But, Richard Cork discovers, painting came to the rescue

Filling his days with the void

At an age when most people settle for a restful existence, Sir Roger de Grey shows no sign of slowing to a halt. True, he stepped down recently as president of the Royal Academy after reaching the compulsory retirement age of 75, and speaks frankly about the shock it gave him. "It affects your whole metabolism. To be at the centre of things was a very heady experience, and you have to recover from suddenly finding yourself elected. It's quite a brutal process." But de Grey's resilience is intact, and he admits that "secretly I am rather proud of what the Academy has achieved over the past decade".

He did, after all, preside over the creation of the luminous Sackler Galleries, Sir Norman Foster's justly acclaimed and multi-award-winning conversion of some dingy Victorian rooms. "A lot of people were against it at the time," he says, "and nobody realises how difficult the whole thing was. But it's doubled the number of exhibitions we can stage at the Academy, and now enables us to have shows of international quality running at Burlington House all the year round."

De Grey derives satisfaction from the list of distinguished artists he has been able to involve in the Academy. "Because of the painters I knew, especially through my teaching at the Royal College of Art, we have opened the doors to artists like Victor Pasmore, Peter Blake, R.B. Kitaj and David Hockney, who would not otherwise have joined us."

His successor as president, the archi-

tect Sir Philip Dowson, does not know so many painters. But he is well-placed to take on what de Grey describes as the biggest challenge now facing the RA: the long-overdue modernisation of the Main Galleries, each of which will cost £3 million to £4 million to equip with up-to-date display facilities.

If de Grey must be happy to leave this mammoth fund-raising task to Dowson, his appetite for work remains undiminished. He is still principal of the City & Guilds of London Art School, where his wife, the painter Flavia Irwin, runs the decorative art department. And a new exhibition at the Grosvenor Gallery testifies to his tireless activity as a painter himself. Many of the large canvases were inspired by landscapes near his house in the south of France. Others are based on the inter-relationship between his studio, situated at his home in the Kent countryside, and the views through its ample windows.

Although the images are all taut and highly structured, de Grey begins them in a surprisingly wild way. "It's like a ballet performance," he says. "I attack the canvas like an enemy, because it's blank and I often can't decide which view to paint." He shies away from the whole notion of depicting a "set-piece subject." In France he insists on



"I attack the canvas like an enemy," Sir Roger de Grey says of his painting technique, "because it's blank and I often can't decide which view to paint"

painting outside, unbothered by the fiercest sunlight, right in front of his supposed motif. But he sees his real subject as space rather than a particular view. He describes it as "the void", and says: "You ignore it at your peril — the objects within it are not important."

Herein lies his dilemma. "I can't paint

the pictures I want to paint," he says. "I'd like to be able to eliminate the objects in my work — they stand in the way of the painting." His hero, among artists of his generation, is the Californian Richard Diebenkorn, a painter whose exclusion from the RA's recent blockbuster survey of American Art in the 20th century

bailed me completely. "Diebenkorn could leave his pictures empty, especially in that wonderful series of Ocean Park paintings," says de Grey, who was "thrilled" when he was able to include one of them in the RA Summer Exhibition. But in his own work, he cannot resist the urge to represent something. "I like elaboration, because otherwise painting becomes less interesting."

Looking at the pictures in the Grosvenor show, I soon became aware of a tension between austerity and richness. The most impressive paintings are, for me, the toughest and least descriptive: views of the scene below Broue Castle, leading the eye across to the saltmarshes on the Atlantic coast. Consisting largely of canals, dykes and swamps, this is a panorama reclaimed from the sea. Empty, primordial and mysterious, it conveys most powerfully de Grey's fascination with "the big chasm" of space. The lean understatement also helps to explain why his other great artist-hero is Braque: "I love all that architectural distillation — he is marvellously restrained."

In other pictures, though, de Grey moves away from severity towards a more serious, thickly painted and perhaps reassuring vision. Inside the glass-walled studio in Kent, converted by his

architect son Spencer, he finds that "the void is more limited." Pictorial interest now centres on the interplay between interior and exterior, where fields, trees and an orchard give him plenty of natural forms to grapple with.

All the same, the Kent paintings stop well short of cosiness. The most compelling canvas includes, at its centre, a macabre carcass of a swan. "We found it on the Thames marshes, its head cut off on an electric wire," de Grey remembers. "It was rotten and disgusting, but we brought it back. I became obsessed by it." Although perched on a stool, the bleached skeleton appears to hover in space, surrounded by an infinitely ambiguous range of glass screens which accentuate the air of mystery. More haunting than its pendant painting of a horse's skull, the dead swan's image sounds a very personal note. As a *memento mori*, its meaning for de Grey seems inescapable.

But the show as a whole is far from melancholy. Painters have a habit of improving with age, and he clearly looks forward to years of work uninterrupted by presidential duties. The very opposite of lofty or complacent, de Grey lacks the conversation with plenty of self-deprecating humour. "Almost everything painting is wrong," he says, before continuing to discuss his own work with as much energy as ever.

© Roger de Grey: Recent Paintings and Drawings at the Grosvenor Gallery, 18 Albemarle St, W1 (071-629 0891) until April 28

Just don't kiss me, Kate

Touring *The Taming of the Shrew* in the Middle East raises fundamental problems. Michael Church reports

For the British Council to take a production of *The Taming of the Shrew* round the Arab world sounds, on the face of it, like provocation. A rebellious woman whipped into line? No problem! Shakespeare's most problematic play is right up the fundamentalists' street. From Abu Dhabi to Sharjah to Kuwait to Cairo to Amman to Damascus, let the marital blows fall, and let the rafters merry ring!

This is the play on which Bernard Shaw laid down the politically correct line. "No man with any decency of feeling," he rasped, could sit it out in the company of a woman without being extremely ashamed of the lord-of-creation moral implied in the woman's speech."

Directors have shied tried all kinds of tricks. Kate's submission is made ironical: Petruccio is shown to be embarrassed; the taming is turned into a necessary piece of psychotherapy for an emotionally disturbed woman. Anything to lessen its inbuilt offensiveness.

The case for the defence, at the Council's London headquarters, is that it is the New Shakespeare Company's production, rather than Shakespeare's play, which is being exported. It is a visual frolic, they argue, with all the trappings of a circus, and a careful denouement which does not degrade women.

The case for the defence at the Council's Cairo outpost is that this play is already well known to Arabic audiences, thanks to a popular film which uproots the action from its Paduan villa and plunks it down in an Egyptian vet's surgery, where the vet's young wife is broken in like any other animal. When you have a language barrier to grapple with, accessibility becomes paramount.

The company, when I caught up with them in Egypt, saw no need to defend the project. Ian Talbot, who directs, regards the play as the gentle satire on the bourgeoisie, and Kate as the victim of her garrulous and insensitive father. Cathryn Harrison, playing Kate, sees it as a study in self-fulfilling prophecy: treat a girl like a shrew, and she'll become one.

At their date in Abu Dhabi, the initial wooing scene, in which Petruccio gets the upper hand, drew raucous male cheers from the audience (shades of David Mamet's *Oleanna*). "This made me even more determined," said Harrison, "to show them that this was not how the relationship ultimately works." The solution she and Geordie Johnson — the NSC's excellent Petruccio — hit upon, was for him to lie down on the ground beside her, when she invites him to tread on her head.

Petruccio's thrice-repeated injunction, "Kiss me, Kate", presented them with a different challenge. Though kissing

"To hell with the language barrier — the laughs came in the right place"

on the lips is permitted on stage in Egypt, other Middle Eastern countries forbid it. Harrison and Johnson have found a solution which, though theoretically more chaste, is in fact more suggestively erotic. The show went down famously well when I saw it at the superb Cairo Opera House (a gift to Egypt from Japan), though getting past the door was a production in itself. The two tape-recorders I happened to have in my bag were examined by three uniformed attendants in turn, before a fourth confiscated them for the duration. The house manager looked at my open neck in dismay, then yanked the tie off an elegant minion and virtually throttled me with it.

All done with punctilious politeness, but there was no mistaking the underlying tension. In Cairo now, where soldiers lurk with guns at the ready on every street corner, order is a fragile thing. There were sporadic outbreaks of loud conversation in the stalls during the performance, but the largely Egyptian audience — including quite a few veiled women —

responded with gratifying enthusiasm. And to hell with the language barrier, the laughs came in all the right places.

The theatre critic for the weekly *Al Akhram*, Nehad Selaha, is also professor of drama at Cairo University, and a noted scourge of social and political bigotry. Her review of the show was one long sigh of relief — that it had ingeniously avoided giving the enemy yet another stick with which to beat the female sex. But she admitted to me that she would have been happier if the Britons had brought a different play. "In Egypt now, *The Shrew* is too topical for comfort," she and her daughter Sarah, who also teaches at the university, talked despairingly of the way their students were throwing away the freedoms their elder sisters had fought for.

When a girl comes to college for the first time in a veil, people now say *mabruk* — "Congratulations, you've seen the light at last!" — said Nehad. "And if the congratulator is not veiled, the answer comes back: 'May you soon have the same good fortune.'". Sarah said that some of her brightest students were writing papers and making articulate speeches about it being not just a woman's duty but her privilege to stay at home. "Ten years ago, this would have been unthinkable."

Look through Nehad Selaha's reviews from the past four years, and you find these issues constantly refracted through Egyptian reworkings of European classics. Othello is Arabised as Atallah, and his tragedy set in Upper Egypt, where rigid sexual taboos and *crimes passionnels* are the order of the day. The sex-starved daughters in Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba* are relocated in a Cairo lunatic asylum. Macbeth is transformed into Saddam Hussein, while Macbeth's elgy for Scotland becomes the lament of a man who has watched Kuwait ransacked by a tyrant. The Sixties were the golden age for Egyptian theatre, with left-wing writers and state-subsidised theatres working in busily productive harmony. Egypt's humiliating defeat in



The New Shakespeare Company's *Taming of the Shrew*: a frolic with circus trappings

the Six Day War destroyed the political ability on which this depended, and Sadat's westernising policies stimulated the growth of a commercial theatre, whose primary purpose, according to Selaha, has been to serve "beautiful girls in brainless comedies for the Arab rich".

There is still a large network of state-subsidised theatres, but seven-eighths of its annual revenue is spent on bureaucracy: in five years' time, says

Selaha, it will probably be defunct. She sees some hope in the regional network of "Culture Palaces" — shoe-string, grass roots enterprises — and more in the satirical fringe, whose boldest luminary is the playwright Lenia El-Ramly. He and his friends keep the state censors permanently on their toes.

On my second night in Cairo, I went to one of the state theatres to see a medieval epic given a contemporary political

spin. The acting was ham, and the production visually crude, with three gnarled musicians brought in from the desert as its one saving grace. There were 30 on stage, and 30 respectfully subdued people in the large auditorium. On my third night, I went to the circus. Five-year-old acrobats, liondoff tight-rope cyclists, lions and tigers jumping through hoops of fire — and a delighted crowd. Theatre can be such a simple matter.

NEW MUSIC: Adès meets Couperin

Young and old

BCMG
Pebble Mill,
Birmingham

IT IS a brave young composer who invites comparison with Debussy by writing for a group of instruments — oboe, horn, and harpsichord — which Debussy himself intended to feature in a sonata shortly before he died. Thomas Adès did not do it alone, however: he called in the help of Couperin (who would also have been in Debussy's mind, but deep in the subconscious) and the two of them act out a fascinating counterpoint of personalities and styles.

In the first section of the *Sonata da Caccia* the counterpoint is not only metaphorical. The oboe or the horn might be occupied with Adès material, a melodic shape based on expanding intervals, while the other draws a distinctively baroque line around it. The merging of the elements here is perhaps the most successful aspect of a piece which, if the 24-year-old composer had had the stamina to sustain it, would have resulted in a new *Tonbeau de Couperin*.

But it doesn't last. The central slow section is presented as a dream-like memory on a tinkling harpsichord over sustained notes on the wind.

instruments, very much in the manner of Alfred Schnittke. It is an easy way out, as is the last section, a Maxwell Davies kind of parody gavotte which is more brief than witty.

It was an enterprising and useful BBC commission, however, expertly performed by the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group. The concert naturally included one of the late Debussy sonatas (for cello and piano) together with Elliott Carter's intricate *Sonata for flute, oboe, cello and harpsichord*, and Fauré's *Concerto in A-flat major*. Also Zimmermann's *Sonata for Solo Cello* seemed the most interesting item. It was thanks partly to an inspired interpretation — by Ulrich Heinen, and partly to its position as a thoughtful soliloquy in the midst of much entertaining chamber-music chatter.

GERALD LARNER

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LONDON CONCERTS: Schnittke, Mozart and Strauss at the Festival Hall; virtuoso percussion at the Barbican

Monstrously entertaining

LPO/Jansons
Festival Hall

THE sleep of reason, according to one of Goya's darker etchings, brings forth monsters. Well, reason slept well on Tuesday night and monsters of miraculous making crept out of the poor, deranged brain of Don Quixote and the sardonic fancies of the super-sane Alfred Schnittke.

Mariss Jansons and the London Philharmonic held both Strauss and Schnittke poised either side of a central classical monument, Mozart's Symphony No 40, in a concert of unusually stimulating musical chemistry.

The Mozart was very much the still point of reference in a frenetically turning evening, and Jansons's shapely, stable performance set into vivid relief both Schnittke's own anarchic departures from what he described as the "Mozart-Schubert" sound of his boyhood Vienna, and Rich-

ard Strauss's maverick variations.

No soon has the ear located those sounds and sweet Mozartian airs at the back of the second violins in Schnittke's *Klein Sommerachtsstraum* than they begin to lose focus and blur. Then, just before they fall apart completely, they are whipped and compassed into disturbing new nightmare apparitions. Call it polytymism, or call it cooking a snook at the midsummer Salzburg Festival concert ten years ago in which it was first programmed: Jansons certainly opened the ear to more of its naughtiness and its cunning than we often hear.

His direction of Strauss's *Don Quixote* was no less

subtle and sure. The ten variations which chart the tragicomic adventures of the "Knight of the Rueful Countenance" were delicately imagined from the heavy substance of Strauss's vast orchestra.

The Don's own clouded mental state rose in a flurry of levitating upbrows to hover over all subsequent proceedings, and violins brushed against horns as reality once more burned behind the gauze of the surreal. Throughout, the work was shaped with rare elegance and spirit by Jansons's baton, while the bows of cellist Heinrich Schiff and the orchestra's principal viola, Norbert Blume, sketched a pageant of changing expression and mood in the fevered minds of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza.

HILARY FINCH

All the hit sounds

Evelyn Glennie
Barbican

ones, she conjured a sound world thousands of miles from mainstream occidental music. A pair of pieces exploited the full area of the stage in different ways. John McLeod's *The Song of Dionysus* began with Glennie playing the piano, while her excellent accompanist, Philip Smith, took up the claves (wooden blocks). After duetting on the latter, they swapped roles, with Glennie's volleys on the marimba and drums spilling in red and blue light respectively.

It was an apt touch for an awesomely theatrical piece, which ended as it began.

In Robert Godman's punningly titled *we assume you knew two* ... Glennie traversed the stage alone, her sorties on various kits punctuated only by synthetic sounds on a tape. No doubt the latter served partly to fill in the gaps during the soloist's perambulation, but they also set atmosphere and articulated some sort of progress in an otherwise bafflingly unconventional structure.

The final two items brought a modicum of accessibility: vigorous jazz rhythms in John Psathas's *Matre's Dance*, and genuine melodic interest in Paul Creston's *Concerto for Marimba*. As throughout the recital, both performers displayed not only consummate virtuosity but also musicality of the highest level.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Father of young fogies

Peter Ackroyd on the youthful Betjeman's epistolary evolution from high camp to high Gothic

The first letter in this volume, written when John Betjeman was 18, asks for information about a poem by Charles Mungo Dibdin entitled 'The Maniac's Funeral'. On the same page we also discover that at the age of eight he devoured *Antiquities of Cornwall*. He was then, a singular child. He was the only boy of his age to bring a set of golf clubs to school and, when bored, he used to lie down by the main road and pretend to be dead: he had a similar habit much later in life, when he left a stuffed alligator on his lawn in order to alarm visitors.

As a young man and not so young man, then, he was constantly bursting into "hoots of laughter". By the time he arrived at Oxford, he was also something of a snob and a social climber (qualities which his friend and contemporary, W.H. Auden, did not necessarily admire), but the propensity was natural enough. He was the son of East End and Highgate tradesmen and despite the fact that in many respects he remained a typical Londoner, he despised his background; he also knew his own capacities and yearned for another life.

Perhaps that is why he mingled largely with homosexuals although, in the Oxford of the 1920s you would have had to have left the country in order to avoid them — the more determined of them were known affectionately by him as "hundred per cent". There was in fact a kind of theatricality about Betjeman which made such company highly congenial. He sent "Love and Kisses" to his male friends, and knew the argot intimately. "You will do well to go to the roller-skating rink at the Alexandra Palace on a Saturday afternoon," he wrote to Patrick Balfour. "There are, without exaggeration, no less than five hundred cups of tea there and an introduction and dance can be effected at once." A "cup of tea" was the slang for a charming boy, while an older man was often known — mystifyingly to outsiders — as "an ex-cup of tea".

Despite these diversions, Betjeman himself seems to have been relatively heterosexual, although in these letters he did address one of his first girlfriends rather confusingly as "Duckie" and "My darling old rubbish-heap".

But his interest in other matters soon emerged and, by the age of 29, his historic destiny was decided: he revealed, according to Candida Lycett Green, that his interests included "ecclesiastical architecture of the later 18th and early 19th centuries, box pews and three decker pulpits... branch railways, suburbs, provincial towns; steam trains".

He was also a born antiquarian who, like many of that species, might himself have emerged from any century — "ruined abbeys," he wrote, "ruined castles and prehistoric camps. I am in heaven". His interest in the contemporary world was much less inspired: "I am very much afraid capitalism is going to survive," he reported in the spring of 1932, "and I am sure I do not know where we will all be because I for one have been running up bills on the strength of its collapse."

Truly significant events did not pass him by, however, and he was exercised over such matters as the Town and Country Planning Act — he was a

true Londoner, in other words, who understood the importance of his inheritance. That was why his first really important work, after a spell as a schoolmaster and private secretary, was as the editor of the *Shell Guides*.

At the same time he began to give talks on the wireless, thus beginning a career as a popular performer which entirely suited him. He was not a scholar, or an academic. He was something better: he was a character. His grandpapa-in-law were quite right to accuse him of being a little common — there was a trace of vulgarity about him and his innate theatricality sometimes gave him the appearance of an ambitious showman — "Might not I become a sort of Harry Tate of Television?" he wrote as early as 1937, thus showing himself to be a true prophet of the new age, as well as a very good judge of his own character.

It cannot be said that Betjeman was a great letter writer: he lacked the vanity or self-absorption which allows an author to project himself successfully; certainly he had no reason to believe that anyone would keep his correspondence, and no idea that it would one day be published. That is why he is so confiding, so candid, so voluble, and so



A born antiquarian: the ageing Betjeman in a wye at Butterfield's Victorian Gothic in All Saints', Margaret Street

unrestrained — the phrase "stream of consciousness" might have been invented for his epistolary style.

Of course there are darker aspects. There are signs of petulance, anger and paranoia; but these are no more than one would expect from a poet of extraordinary talent if not, exactly, genius. In any case one can forgive anything of a correspondent who signs himself Lady Bates, Joe Stalin and Austin Puxley Pierce.

Those who find his religious sensibility rather a bore

(he was neither a visionary nor a theologian, so his insights are strictly provisional) may discover that some of the later letters are less interesting than those he wrote in the 1920s or 1930s. But tastes do vary in such matters, and those readers who wish to enter the spiritual conversation between Betjeman and Evelyn Waugh will find plenty of material in this volume. Of all the Christian virtues, Betjeman seems to have practiced charity most, and there is a wonderful aside here on

the nature of sexuality. "I find I hate power mania more than sex-mania or anyone else and will forgive the wildest sensual excess for a spark of kindness, generosity and humour on the profane." Such words should be written in letters of gold on the wall of every nonconformist chapel in England.

The editing of this volume has obviously been a labour of love by his daughter, and it has the distinction of being a wonderful memoir as well as an excellent volume of letters.

Mrs Lycett-Green is in fact a very engaging and very funny writer, who does full justice to the oddity and the humour of her father's life; she has an extraordinary talent for comic narrative, also, and she should be persuaded to write a full-scale biography of her own. Meanwhile, admirers will be waiting impatiently for the second volume of these letters when, as his daughter puts it, "The limelight had begun to glow around him." Perhaps she ought to call it *Gin and Limelight?*

Unhappy in its own way

Rachel Cusk

LOST CHILDREN

By Maggie Gee

Flamingo, £14.99

The little society of the family, with its injustices, hierarchies and ultimately overthrown authority figures, is a source of fascination for most people, not only because everyone supposedly has one. Rather, it has become fashionable in the search for self-knowledge to scour the larder for one's own ingredients, which, aside from somewhat jading the palate, may uncover some nasty explanations for why we taste the way we do.

Maggie Gee's *Lost Children* is the story of a family forced into an examination of labels by the violent reaction of one of its children, to a recipe everyone assumed was successful simply because nothing awful had ever happened. Alma Bennett wakes up one morning to discover that her 16-year-old daughter, the pampered family favourite Zoe, has inexplicably flown the coop, leaving behind her an ill-assembled group of people who no longer seem to have very much in common.

The shock of Zoe's disappearance jolts Alma out of domestic immolation and into a ruthless crusade of frankness, during which she admits her dislike of her husband and son, throws them out of the house, and gets a job as an estate agent.

This may seem no more than a workaday tale of a woman's liberation, but *Lost Children* does not shy away from the brutality such a course entails. Alma's rejection of her husband and indifference to her son Adam are horrifying, while her admitted adoration of Zoe and the rebirth of selfishness as she goes about her new life seem almost repellent. Even if she must reject everything contained within her old life, she is not behaving as one would want her to behave.

Faced with the central fact of Zoe's absence, the family is driven into contemplation by its divided state. The silent battles of consciousness which seethe beneath the united facade of family life rise to the surface in each member's isolation, and the various suppressions of individuality by role-play are brought to light.

Alma's husband Paul wallows in neglect and lack of appreciation in a bedsit in Ealing. Adam realises that his parents cannot see him without the focus of Zoe, and his attempts to force himself into the limelight are pitifully rebuffed. Alma's voyage of self-discovery is the longest, as she first of all experiences self-

awareness, comparing her predicament with those of her female friends, and then goes back into the past to discover all the whys and wherefores.

At times the equations here are too neat — her revulsion at Adam, for example, is supposedly the consequence of his resemblance to her abusive dead father — but the power of knowledge and the price of ignorance in the relationship between parents and children is well caught. Alma thought she knew everything about Zoe, and in fact knew nothing at all, while her own mother holds keys to the past which Alma is sure would unlock all her own conundrums. Adam, in whom neither of his parents is particularly interested, is in fact being driven to despair by a confidence crisis, and is also in touch with the missing Zoe. Zoe, the enigma at the heart of it all, is merely trying to escape from the exceptional claims of her family's love into a life where mediocrity and pain are allowed to exist.

Lost Children is a compelling novel of great relevance, and Gee is exceptionally successful in her attempt to breathe life into a broad range of characters without ever relying on caricature. If the book has a fault, it lies in the slightly romantic compulsion to tie up loose ends, which lends a feeling of inevitability to the development of the story. It is, however, the supremacy of order on which the notion of the family depends, and the novel pays its debts to reality through its portrayal of individuals clinging to this order within the invaded citadel of family life.



Maggie Gee compelling

Why the slaves' revolution failed

Sousa Jamba

FREE ENTERPRISE

By Michelle Cliff

Viking, £13

IN THE past, to make sense of their current condition, black writers dealing with the Americans — such as James Baldwin or Ralph Ellison — made their mark by delving into the present. There is, however, a younger generation, Toni Morrison among them, whose narratives have gone back into the years of slavery. This story of two black women who, in 1858, plot an unsuccessful revolution is one of these.

We first learn of Annie, a Jamaican woman who has left her life of privilege on the island to join the failed revolution and has now settled on the banks of the Mississippi next to a leper colony where the patients while their time away by telling each other stories. When it is Annie's turn, she tells the story of a Jamaican prophet who had promised his flock he could fly back to Africa. Except for this, the stories at the colony are boring and the characters — as with the rest of the novel — are no more than mere props through which the author tries to make her points.

Then we get to Mary Ellen Pleasant, the tough, enterprising woman who had owned a series of hotels which catered to a white clientele and earned her much scorn from some envious whites. Mrs Pleasant moves in abolitionist circles and uses her business and influence to help slaves who had escaped. She attends a dinner party in Boston where a Turner painting — based on a ship on which slaves, dead and alive, were thrown into the sea so the merchants could claim insurance — is unveiled.

The white guests at the party discuss where the painting should be hung; but Mrs Pleasant tries hard not to express her anger. She looks at the only other black person in the room, the butler, and can sense that he too has been disturbed by the painting. One of the messages of the novel is that, in those days, however much a black person tried to affect the ways of the dominant white society, her origins would return to haunt her.

AS THE narrative whirrs on, we learn that the revolutionary plot failed in part because Mrs Pleasant had serious differences with John Brown, her fellow plotter who believed that the aim of the revolution was the creation of a black Communist utopia; Mrs Pleasant believed in private property. Many of the issues raised in this novel are indeed very relevant to the general debate going on in America about the condition of its citizens of African descent.

Michelle Cliff is at her best when she evokes the horror of slavery. There are memorable passages in this novel. The issues it raises, however, have to be extracted from the highly involved narrative which, I feel, is unnecessary. Every page of this novel seems to be begging desperately to be taken as serious literature.

A boy's own man

Charles Powell

THE FIST OF GOD

By Frederick Forsyth

Transworld, £15.99



Forsyth: skilful storyteller

A good story improves in the telling. The Gulf War seemed nerve-racking enough at the time. Little did we know how much more exciting it could have been had we left it to Freddie Forsyth. The version of the Gulf War in his latest novel, *The Fist of God*, makes the original events themselves look tame. "Better than the truth" should be its sales pitch.

Indeed it starts an interesting train of thought. Surely the Government should make use of Forsyth's talents to live up to events at the time they happen, rather than waiting for him to add sparkle afterwards. Goodness knows, most of them would benefit from his touch. Just imagine what he could have done for the Maastricht treaty. Evil Jake Delors's headish plot to dominate Europe foiled by Duggie ("Loden") to his mates. Hurd, handbag-scarred veteran of a thousand bureaucratic battles. Sprinkling the treaty text with secret British syntax, he ensures that Europe ends up adopting the Bruges speech as its guide and model, with the corpses of federalists littering his path. Heady stuff.

The Gulf War might almost have been contrived for Forsyth's benefit. One feels that the UN Security Council, before imposing sanctions on Iraq, should have passed a resolution securing the film rights. It was great *Boy's Own* Annual stuff. Rarely has the bad guy's hat been blacker. The battles were conveniently fought in the wide-open spaces of the desert where the high-tech kit could operate in full view of a worldwide television audience.

Just think how the story would have been ruined had Iraq been covered by jungle. Thank God Saddam did not spot that one in the Eighties and place orders with British

firms. We would now be having the Scott Enquiry into the Sale of Jungle Vegetation to Iraq. "Now, Mr Waldegrave, do you seriously expect this Enquiry to believe that the revised guidelines permitting the sale of dual-purpose palm trees was intended to meet Iraq's need for coconut palm rather than provide camouflage for its war aims..."

The core of the story is the existence of a very highly placed Iraqi "Deep Throat" who provides vital information to the Allies during the Gulf War. Fact or fiction? There is no doubt that we were very well informed after the invasion of Kuwait on Iraqi plans and capabilities, but the intelligence services very wisely never let on the source or sources of their information. But Forsyth's great skill is to interweave fact with fiction so that you lose track of which is which. With the Gulf War he gets a

head start, because the facts were bizarre enough anyway. Here are just a few. An American *chargé d'affaires* roused from bed on the night of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait to be asked by the White House for Saddam's home telephone number. An Iraqi super-gun built out of oil pipeline. SAS units scudding to coin a phrase — around the Iraqi desert — in moon ranger vehicles. Cruise missiles which stop to ask the way at street corners (well, almost) before proceeding to their targets. More acronyms than you can shake a stick at: SATNAV, NAVSTAR, ITALD, J-STARS and many more (including the beloved MMFED — or Miles and Miles of Frying Desert). With raw material like that, you hardly need the fiction.

The skill is to weld it into a great story without the mind-numbing excess of technical detail which bedevils *The Hunt for Red October* and others of that genre. In Forsyth's books, you do not need to strip down the gear-box; you just assume that it works and get on with the champagne.

Once again, as in *Day of the Jackal* and a host of other gripping tales, the master has done a brilliant job. But now that he's getting on a bit, surely it's the duty of governments and diplomats to ease his task. In future they should consult Freddie before the events happen, so that he can help them to get the storyline right from day one. The Conservative Party would be wise to take out an option on Forsyth's services for the 1997 election. It may be their best hope that Johnny, Duggie, Blondie and the boys will win through in real life too.

Sir Charles Powell was Private Secretary to Mrs Thatcher and John Major, 1984-1991.

For those in love with France: have a final fling with our guide this Friday.

The last part of our 'Passport to France' guide, inside The Times, goes South.

Enjoy the smells and tastes of Provence through the words of someone who knows them well because he lives there. **Stena Sealink**

Get to know Nice, the capital of the Côte d'Azur, a city of extremes with a persona all of its own.

Discover the rugged limestone massif of Vercors, setting of one of the most courageous and tragic episodes of the French Resistance. And find yourself a property bargain in the Drôme.

'Passport to France', Part Three. Take a last fond look before you start packing.

THE TIMES

AT 30P. IT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR A GREAT NEWSPAPER.

Printed in association with Stena Sealink

Liberty and the pursuit of love

Peter Mandler praises an original account of the Georgian nobility: the tale of four sisters who played their cards well in a man's world

We think we know the Georgian aristocracy. Tutored by stately homes, *Tom Jones* and *Clarissa*, George Heyer, Classic FM and the half-truths of the heritage industry, we take comfort from what we think we share with them — their sexual pleasure-taking, directness of expression, conspicuous consumption — and from what we wish we could share — spaciousness and graciousness, the certainties of social order and hierarchy.

How partial and unimaginative this view is — as Stella Tillyard makes clear in her honest and moving collective biography of the four noble Lennox sisters and their extended family. She ranges across the 18th century, touches on practically every facet of Georgian high life (and much of the low) and gently subverts all the heritage clichés without once browbeating or lecturing the reader.

In place of coyness and fragrance, she gives us menstrual blood, labourers' sweat (funding all that brocade and plasterwork), and tears, copious tears — over buried babies (only half of Emily Lennox's 22 children reached adulthood), broken hearts, and families fractured by cross-cutting social and political loyalties. In place of romance, we get love — a much tougher emotion, especially before "sensibility" became fashionable in the 1760s — and sex — used skilfully by Emily to extract cash from her husband, the Duke of Leinster, but used against her sister Sarah, convicted of adultery by the testimony of servants and confined thereafter to many years of virtual house arrest.

As for social hierarchy, by 1776 and certainly by 1789 even these confident Whig matriarchs knew how fragile it was. The servants at Emily's Carlton House and Louisa's Castletown were amply supplied with beef and small beer, but the Irish peasants who paid their wages worked down to dusk for a meagre diet of milk and potatoes.

With help from Voltaire and

Rousseau, though against the instincts of their class, all of the Lennoxes tried to grasp at a germ of common humanity that affiliated them to these dependants. Emily's son, Lord Edward Fitzgerald, grappled with this truth most closely: he discovered a primitive fraternity among the Indians of Nova Scotia, disclaimed his title, raised a rebellion in Ireland and lost his life.

These Lennox sisters were nothing like the virgins and whores with whom the male authors of the time populated novels like *Clarissa* ("that stupid book", as Emily called it). They worked within the separate sphere allotted women, but that sphere proved more than capacious.

The primary female function of "housekeeping" amounted, in the case of large houses like Carlton and Castletown, to the management of a large factory — larger, in fact, than

any factories of the day. Their devotion to maternity made them the principal formative influence in the lives of great political figures like Caroline's third son, Charles James Fox. Most importantly, these women developed considerable literary and artistic powers, expressed in thousands of letters rather than in novels, in private theatricals rather than in plays, in commissioning and collecting rather than in executing prints and portraits.

Far from being derivative or secondary, their works shaped lives, their own and their families'. More than a century before psychoanalysis, daily correspondence between sisters was a crucial means of self-fashioning and mutual therapy. Before rapid transportation and electronic communication, only regular letter-writing could keep together a family separated by the Atlantic Ocean and the Irish Sea. Interior decoration of great houses by means of portraits, busts, rhetorical friezes and frescoes determined the image these important families would present to the public.



(Above) Lady Sarah Bunbury sacrificing to the Graces, by Joshua Reynolds (1764-65) and (below) the Lennox sisters' parents, the Duke of Richmond and his wife Sarah by Godfrey Kneller, c. 1720

The formal conventions within which the Lennox sisters worked seemed to offer more rather than less opportunity for expressiveness. According to Tillyard, Louisa's mythological panels at Castletown can be read as a gloomy commentary on her own marriage, Sarah's grotesque shell-cottage at Carlton as an effusion of uncontrollable anger and grief. A casual admirer of Ramsay's portrait of Louisa, which graces *Aristocrats* cover, may be beguiled by the enormous pink court-dress that dominates it, and miss the significance of the grapes clutched in her right hand.

Such was the power of the Lennox sisters' representations that they overpowered convention; these women were authors of their own lives to an extent not generally possible, if that makes their tale untypical, even of aristocrats, then



also makes it grippingly readable and sympathetic.

All four women, by sheer force of will, constructed basically satisfying marriages out of highly unpromising materials. The two love affairs that dominate the end of the book are so unlikely and so gratifying that they feel invented — like something out of a Brontë novel, half a century too early. It is

appropriate that the happy endings of this book should also come as a shock, a final dose of bizarre truthfulness.

The only thing phoney about *Aristocrats* is its title — a piece of publishing conglomerate condescension. Even Hollywood movies are allowed two-word titles: what with *Citizens*, *Britons* and now *Aristocrats*, publishers seem to fear that readers of popular history will be frightened off by more than one.

In this case, the title — like the pink gown on the cover — gives little hint of the richness and strangeness within. Stella Tillyard's book is history to make you start and stare.

Peter Mandler is senior lecturer in modern history at London Guildhall University. He is the author of *Aristocratic Government in the Age of Reform* (OUP, 1990).

Hanoverians and courtiers

Jeremy Black

THE QUEEN'S CHAMELEON
The Life of John Byrom:
A Study of Conflicting Loyalties
By Joy Hancox
Jonathan Cape, £18.99
A ROYAL CONFLICT
Sir John Conroy and the Young Victoria
By Katherine Hudson
Hodder & Stoughton, £20

In the management of funds, and dominated by delusions of grandeur, Hudson offers a skilful analysis of the young court, one that is sensitive to nuances of behaviour and position.

As the position and future of the monarchy come again to excite considerable attention it is probable that more will be written about past rulers. Those of the 19th century were of particular importance. From William IV's reign on, the British monarchy was not associated with the forces of political conservatism, as it would have



Caricature of Byrom in 1762

been had his brother Ernest, Duke of Cumberland, become king. Whether, later, Edward VIII would have led in that direction is unclear, but his "abdication" represented another failure for the possibility of asserting monarchy.

This may be one reason why Britain is still a monarchy — where now are the other crowned heads of Europe who followed their own way? — but any emphasis on successful adaptation to political change in Britain may appear complacent. It is only in hindsight that such patterns of adaptation appear clear. There was nothing predictable, for example, about political developments during the reform crisis of 1832-33; a different attitude on the part of the monarchs then, might well have led to a crisis for the crown.

British political culture in the early 19th century had in any case already been changed by the decline of the monarchy in the person of one of its most flamboyant, and in many respects pathetic, figures, the self-centred George IV, a man of more sensibility than sense. His successor, William IV, and succeeding monarchs could adapt to political reform; they had to.

Jeremy Black is Professor of History at Durham University.

Old broadcasters never die

Leonard Miall was best known to the British listening public immediately after the war when from 1945 to 1953 he was the BBC's Washington correspondent, but altogether he worked for the Corporation for a span of 45 years. It was the sort of career possible only in a chapter of British broadcasting history that is now closed.

Miall was recruited in 1939. If he had joined a few months earlier he might have glimpsed the BBC's first Director-General stomping out of Broadcasting House for the last time, the tears streaming down his cheeks. Miall remained on the staff until 1974 and then spent the first decade of his still active retirement as the BBC's Research Historian. He knows where almost all the bodies are buried; can, indeed, usually fill you in on what the first gravedigger had for breakfast on the day the deed was done.

He offers here brief sketches of two dozen or so of the BBC people he knew best. The selection is arbitrary — William Haley and Ian Jacob are included, two of their successors as Director-General, Charles Curran and Ian Trethowan, are not. There is an emphasis on colleagues who worked in news or current affairs, but he also finds room for Eric Maschwitz and David Attenborough.

Occasionally I detected a whiff of nihilist bonum.



Past BBC D-Gs: (left to right) Sir Hugh Greene, Sir William Haley, Sir Ian Jacob

Miall is much sought after as a memorialist, and acknowledges that he has drawn on some of the signed obituaries he has contributed to the *Independent*. (In which connection, he is about 100 yards out in writing that Gilbert Harding dropped dead outside Broadcasting House. He actually collapsed on the steps of 1 Portland Place.)

"How these curiosities would be quite forgot," wrote John Aubrey in his *Brief Lives*, "did not such idle fellows as I am put them down." Miall has never been able to claim tidiness as one of his virtues, but his book — a mixture of first-hand observation, gossip, folklore and lightly-worn erudition — displays an essential Aubrey-like virtue.

There are some interesting footnotes for broadcasting history. The impropriety committed in Harold Wilson's day when Charles Hill's appointment as BBC Chairman was announced two days before the Privy Council at which the Queen was asked to approve it has been noted before; it was news to me that the same discourtesy was shown to Her Majesty during the Thatcher years when the present Chairman, Marmaduke Hussey,

was first appointed. Not easy to write well about friends and close colleagues — benevolence can sometimes assume a bromide hue. Miall is more generous to Hugh Greene than I would have found it possible to be; his judgment on Ian Jacob, on the

other hand — "the successfully piloted the BBC through more turbulent waters than either Reith or Greene ever encountered" — is spot-on. He awards deservedly high marks to Joanna Spicer and to Paul Fox.

To venture a comparison between Alistair Cooke and Alexis de Tocqueville, however, strikes me as plain dotty.

Miall has for many years been the BBC's anecdotalist. Laurence. He reminds us of Richard Dimbleby's passion for authenticity, and how it led him, when covering the story of a record-breaking new railway engine, to spend much of

the journey recording the real sound of the train's wheels by dangling a microphone down a lavatory pan. An agreeable pendant is the story of how Audrey Russell, anxious to preserve the acetate discs of her portable recording machine at the correct temperature, hit on the idea of tucking them into her battle blouse. "This had a curious effect on her elegant bust."

It is nice to know that Stuart Hibberd gargled before reading the news — perhaps they should try that on the new "rough raw" Radio Five Live. Evelyn Waugh's eyes would have bulged with envy at the tale of Sir Mordaunt Scaage cutting at Savoy Hill to ask Reith why his lad John, down from Oxford with a college oar and a fine resonant voice, had received no reply to his application for a job.

Marmaduke Hussey should certainly chew on Miall's story from the period during the war, when for a brief lunatic season two Director-Generals were required to work in harness. The sharpest shop floor in the land saw the logic of it at once — "One DG to say yes to the Ministry of Information, another to say no."

More British than the Queen

Julia Neuberger

THE JEWISH CHRONICLE AND ANGLO-JEWRY 1841-1991
By David Cesarani
Cambridge, £40

FOR OVER 100 years, *The Jewish Chronicle* has been the self-avowed "organ" of Anglo-Jewry. It has reflected Anglo-Jewish attitudes and encouraged debate within the community. It played its part dramatically in the debate over Jewish emancipation. Nonconformists and Catholics gained emancipation in the late 1820s. But Jews and Quakers were still kept out of the universities (except University College, London), civic and public office, and, most importantly, full acceptance within society.

In the 1857 general election, the editor, Abraham Benisch, proclaimed: "Let every Jew employ to the utmost the influence which he may possess for promoting the return of members favourable for the removal of Jewish disabilities." When the Liberals won and removed Jewish disabilities, it upheld the Liberal cause. In 1867 Benisch argued that "the Jew feels instinctively that, politically, he is nothing if he is not a Liberal." But things changed, and so did Jewish voting patterns.

Certain themes run through this compelling history of *The Jewish Chronicle*. The divisions between orthodox and reform have been meat and drink to the paper from its very beginning. The tensions between assimilation, Britishness, acceptance and remaining staunchly Jewish — are recounted time and again. Debates about the nature of Jewish identity proliferate. And there are concerns about mixed marriage which are still there. "Alas! What degeneracy do we behold," the paper commented on the occasion of Hannah Rothschild's marriage to Lord Rosebery in 1878.

Concerns about immigration, Zionism, the Holocaust, and the direction of the Anglo-Jewish community are all included. It bravely and consistently attacked Israeli government policy towards the Palestinians. The Zionist establishment did not like it. In the 1960s the *Chronicle* supported Rabbi Louis Jacobs against the then Chief Rabbi, Sir Israel Brodie, who disavowed Jacobs as a candidate for the post of principal of Jews' College because of his religious views. The orthodox establishment did not like it.

BUT THE most difficult period to read about is its reaction to the Holocaust. At first, it kept low-key. It became more outspoken in 1942, but less so in 1943. The question why remains unanswered. Cesarani postulates the fear of being thought Jewish-centred at a time of national war effort. Others have suggested a failure of imagination, or the desire to be thought loyal to Britain. Whatever the truth, the facts still stick in the craw. Being British and Jewish was never easy. Cesarani paints a brilliant picture of *The Chronicle's* attempts to come to grips with the tensions. It has kept readers in all sections of the community, except perhaps the young, and to influence events. That is no mean achievement.

What can they hope for at the Cape?



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Odonoghue 3:55:37; F Haslett

listened to her. I would be happy to do the marathon again just for the atmosphere. It was great, even on the last five miles when I felt sick and faint. There were so many other people looking worse than me."

Dr Virginia Craig, finishing time 4hr 55sec, said she had had to walk the last couple of miles. She had stopped twice for attention to blisters but it was after the 20-mile mark that she began to feel bad. Craig, 36, works in cancer research and her run has raised more than £800 for the Leukaemia Research Fund.

She has managed to train around her long working hours despite spraining her ankle in the early days. "I might well have given up but I just couldn't because I was running for the research fund and all my colleagues were spurring me on," she said.

Dr Alan English, who completed the race in 4hr 40min, was following Chris Brasher's advice for the team to aim to finish and not worry about speed. A precise person, he ran the first nine miles at ten minutes a mile before encountering an obstacle he could not have envisaged.

He developed a unexpected pain in his left knee and he found that the only way to keep going was to do a bit of walking between running for the rest of the race.

English, 61, who is a keen runner and squash player, was disappointed that after all the training, on the big day, as he said, he should develop this unexpected knee trouble. "My consolation," he said, "was in thinking about the runners worse off than me."

"The man alongside me could only painfully limp and hop along. He had drunk too much water before the race and, after only two miles, had had to run into a pub to use the toilet. Rushing out again, he tripped over a vacuum cleaner left on the bar-room carpet and..."

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Davies touch brings fresh verve to women's tour



Davies: one to beat

THE Ford Golf Classic at Woburn may not have quite the cachet of tennis at Wimbledon, rowing at Henley or rugby at Twickenham but, like them, it has developed a vital magic ingredient: it has its niche.

Come April, come wind, rain and, more rarely, shine, the women golfers, clubs polished, spikes sharpened, unwrap their new wools and swings here, heralding the start of another season. Today, it is the same but different.

The anticipation and the excitement of a new beginning are present, as ever, but it is the air of optimism and confidence that marks the difference. The Women's Professional Golfers' European Tour (WPGET), so near to extinction last year, has emerged with the exuberant *joie de vivre* of a body that has cheated death.

"It's no secret that the Royal and Ancient's grant of £50,000 last year helped stop us going into liquidation," Terry Coates, chief executive of the tour, said yesterday. "They have now promised us £150,000 over the next three years, which will help us go into the future on a sound financial basis."

"To have such support from the highest authority in the game means so much. We owe them a deep debt of gratitude. It's an endorsement that women's golf in Europe is to be taken seriously, that it's here to stay."

It is paradoxical that Coates's members, all women, are not eligible to join the R and A. The Royal and Ancient golf club of St Andrews, the game's ruling body that is a men-only establishment. However, its lack of financial chauvinism is refreshing.

Patricia Davies senses the infectious optimism of the world No 1 as the new season starts at Woburn

Coates and Gill Wilson, the tour marketing director, have worked tirelessly to ensure that the R and A's money will not be wasted. They have increased the number of tournaments from ten to 16, with prize-money in the region of £2 million.

Then, of course, the Solheim Cup, the Ryder Cup with lipstick, as it was once described, glitters at the season's end, at the Greenbrier, in West Virginia, from October 21 to 23. Europe are the champions but the United States will be swishing away impatiently on the tee, determined to shatter European illusions that the Waterford crystal trophy belongs on this side of the

Atlantic. "We're going in as underdogs again," Laura Davies said. "It was Davies who did so much to win the trophy at Dalmahoy two years ago and has since elevated herself to the position of world No 1 and is, at present, the leading money-winner on the United States tour."

"It's a position that suits us," Davies, a shrewd assessor of form, said. "If they play their best golf, they'll be hard to beat, but they've still got everything to lose, playing in front of their home tour. We have a good chance, especially if we can get the team spirit going like we did last time."

Nobody exemplifies the team ethic better than Davies, and

Coates was fulsome in his praise. "She's the No 1 supporter of the tour," she said. "I don't think it's too much to say that Laura saved the tour from going under. She sacrificed a lot of events in America to play over here and she's been tremendously helpful to me. She gave me the incentive and enthusiasm I needed to keep going at bad times."

Duly embarrassed, Davies, who flew in from a tournament in Atlanta on Monday and is off to Japan next week, accepted the Vivien Saunders Trophy for the player with the lowest stroke average each year. She has now won it twice in a row, with 70.35 in 1992 and 71.63 last year. This year, she is playing the best golf of her life, thanks to a new, positive attitude.

"I decided to take the responsibility for the shots I hit"

she explained, "and stop moaning about bad breaks." She has not found herself stymied by too many trees so far this year but she may not play enough in Europe to hold off the assorted Irish, Scots, English, French, Italians, Welsh, Swedes — Australians and others who will be after her No 1 spot.

Davies's intention is to play nine or ten of the European events but she may revise her schedule if she continues to do well in the United States and finds herself with a chance to finish the year as leading money-winner there. She is 30 now and crossing the Atlantic seven or eight times a year — she has two transatlantic trips to her credit already, plus a trip to Thailand, to win their Open — is taking its toll. However, she remains the woman to beat — and to see — this week.

Chinese runners pass test for drugs

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TWENTY-FIVE Chinese athletes, including two of the world's leading women distance runners, have passed recent out-of-competition drug tests. Christopher Winner, a spokesman for the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), said the tests on 21 women and four men were held in Peking on March 7 and 8.

The urine samples were sent to the accredited laboratory in Huddinge, Sweden, and all proved negative. It was the third visit by IAAF drug-testers to China this year.

Among those tested were the world record-holders, Wang Junxia (3,000 and 10,000 metres) and Qu Yunxia (5,000 metres). Others included Zhang Linli and Zhang Litong, silver and bronze medal-winners at 3,000 metres at the world championships last year, and Wang Yuan, world junior record-holder at 800 and 1,500 metres.

The sudden success of Chinese women athletes has led to speculation they have been using performance-enhancing drugs. The speculation resurfaced when China's team pulled out of the London Marathon last Sunday.

Ma Junren, who coaches the leading women runners, has repeatedly denied drug use and attributes their success to altitude training and special diets. Chinese officials have recently acknowledged that drug use was a problem in sport and needed to be combated, noting that 33 Chinese athletes have tested positive since 1987.

Dieter Baumann, of Germany, the Olympic 5,000 metres champion, plans to return to the track next month after more than a year's absence because of an ankle injury. He is hoping to be fit for the European championships, which are being held in Helsinki in August.

Baumann plans to compete in a 10,000 metres race in Kappelrodeck on May 14 before running a 5,000 metres race on June 10 in Nuremberg, his first race outdoors at the distance since his triumph in Barcelona. He has run in several cross-country events this year.

Lewis places allegiance in champion's corner with eye on the future

Moorer well drilled for success

Srikumar Sen on the transformation of street brawler into world title threat

LENNOX Lewis, the World Boxing Council heavyweight champion from Britain, will be praying that Evander Holyfield successfully defends his World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation titles when he meets Michael Moorer here in Las Vegas tomorrow. Lewis has been promised a unification title bout with Holyfield in November but he could be kept waiting another year if Moorer wins.

Dan Duva, the promoter of the bout, who has options on Moorer, has said that, if Moorer wins, he will keep the November date with Lewis. But Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, knows that, despite the best intentions of the promoters, things can go wrong.

Maloney said from Pocomoke where Lewis is preparing to fight Phil Jackson on May 1 in Atlantic City: "We are all rooting for Holyfield because we are afraid that if Moorer wins, he could decide to take a few easy fights before facing Lennox."

Lewis could be certain of a Holyfield victory if not for the efforts of John Davimos, Moorer's manager, who six months ago hauled in a disciplinary, Teddy Atlas, to channel the wayward challenger's energies in the right direction.

Moorer had gone through three trainers in two years and had earned the reputation of being lazy, hard to get on with and a tearaway outside the ring.

Atlas is used to difficult charges. When just 22, he was given Mike Tyson to train by Cus D'Amato. Atlas fell out with D'Amato five years later after warning the great trainer that he was being too easy on Tyson and failing to set boundaries.

Atlas is reported to have once pulled a gun on Tyson, warning him to concentrate his mind on boxing. Atlas said: "I have never confirmed or denied that story." When asked if the gun was loaded, he replied: "I would never



Moorer, the challenger, keeps Holyfield, the champion, in the dark at a news conference yesterday

point a gun at anyone — unless it is loaded."

So Atlas, who carries a scar from the top of his scalp to the bottom of his jaw that needed 403 microstitches, a result of a street fight in which his assailant changed weapons from fists to knife, was just the man to tighten up Moorer's attitude in and out of the ring. He appears to have succeeded.

Moorer, like Holyfield, a former cruiserweight champion, has not realised his full potential because of a serious lack of discipline. He has been involved in almost as many street incidents as Tyson, and in 1991 had to pay a \$25,000 fine for knocking out a policeman and putting him in

hospital for three days with a broken jaw.

It needed seven policemen to bring him under control, and it was no surprise that in court he pleaded guilty.

"If you don't respect me, I don't respect you," Moorer said. "Someone disrespects me and I am either going to jail or I am in big, big trouble. If I'm angry, I don't care about anything, myself included."

In another fracas, in a Detroit hotel, he threatened to kill a man. They broke it up in time.

"I've got in my face and pushed me. I told him I am going to kill you if you put your hands on me again. He did it again so I slapped a taste

bud out of his mouth. I took him by his throat and tried to rip out his oesophagus. I'm going to kill you," he said.

From the first day, Atlas read him the rules of training. "If you want to train, you do as I say, or don't waste my time or your plane fare," he told Moorer.

There were times during the ten weeks training for this bout in Palm Springs that Moorer tried to test Atlas but he found the 37-year-old doctor's son uncompromising.

"He tried to test me. I would say 50 sit-ups, he would say 35, but I prevailed. He tried to get out of training but I did get the work done. He used to do road work at six in the evening. I

told him to change it to six in the morning. He said: 'Why do you want to get me out of bed at that time?' I told him: 'Because you don't want to do it.' In the end, he acted like a pro and controlled himself."

Atlas said Moorer began to thrive under closely controlled training conditions. "It sounds funny but I think he wanted to be pushed," Atlas said.

One day after sparring five hard rounds, when Moorer had to face a fresh sparring partner for another three rounds, he turned to Atlas and said: "Hey Teddy, tell me to be strong."

"That was the moment I realised he wanted to do it," Atlas said.

Newlove keeps title chase at boiling point

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AS THE lead at the top of rugby league's St Helens Bitter Championship changed for a fourth time in a week, Bradford Northern showed on Tuesday night that they are not going to spin off the merry-go-round easily, especially if Paul Newlove has anything to do with it.

His thirtieth try of the season was typical of his devastating strength and decisiveness in the 18-16 defeat of St Helens. The result ensured that a three-cornered tussle for the title with Wigan and Warrington will come down to the final weekend.

Newlove, in the fashion he has demonstrated throughout the season, threatened all night at Odsal to elude his markers. A chance presented itself with a scrum. From 15 yards, Newlove took route one through the heavy traffic, bouncing defenders from his path, to score.

Without Newlove, 22, a £245,000 signing from Featherstone Rovers last summer, it is doubtful whether Bradford would be challenging as they are. A good side can, on occasions, look a great one with him. The power, speed and ability to transform defence into attack are strikingly reminiscent of Mal Meninges, the Australia captain, in his prime.

Peter Fox, the Bradford coach, first saw the havoc Newlove can bring to defences playing for Featherstone's Tyners amateurs at 16. "The potential there was obvious," he said. "In world rugby league today, there's no one quite so fast, as wonderfully balanced or more powerful an attacking centre. He's a precious asset for us."

With the exception of Newlove, Bradford looked tired, and were fortunate to encounter a jaded St Helens. Their final game at Leeds, on Saturday, will be far harder. Warrington meet Sheffield Eagles tomorrow but Wigan's superior tally of points scored could be the decisive factor.

Kevin Ward, St Helens' former international prop, intends making a comeback, at 37, more than a year after shattering his left leg in two places against Wigan and almost losing it because of complications. "I've had the plate removed and hope to play again next season," he said.

St Helens had some additional good news yesterday, less than 24 hours after their £300,000 capture of Scot Gibbs, Swansea's British Isles rugby union centre, Anthony Sullivan, their Welsh winger, who scored two tries in the defeat at Bradford, has signed a new three-year contract while Shane Cooper, 33, the captain, has also signed a 12-month deal.

After inaugural games against Morocco, South Africa and Russia, the Great Britain amateur team play hosts to Moldova at York tonight. It is their first international match outside the Commonwealth of Independent States and the side is mainly drawn from the professional side, Eolis Tiraspol.

GREAT BRITAIN: P. Llewellyn (Warrington), K. Cameron (York), A. B. (Warrington), L. Anderson (Leeds), S. W. (Leeds), G. Lamb (Leeds), S. Farr (Leeds), G. Dobbie (Sheffield), S. Bennett (Wigan), S. Patrick (Leeds), O. Rice (Leeds), S. Henderley (Sheffield), P. Brice (Sheffield), M. Dwyer (Sheffield), S. Llewellyn (Leeds), I. Davidson (Leeds), S. Davidson (Leeds), O. Morgan (Leeds).

Milla earns recall for Cameroon at 42

HENRI Michel, the Cameroon coach, said yesterday that Roger Milla, the veteran striker, will play in the international football match against Zambia on Sunday. Michel is under increasing pressure for the World Cup finals but he made it clear that no decision had been made.

Milla retired after playing a key role in Cameroon reaching the World Cup quarter-finals in 1990 but he made a comeback in January with Tonnerre, his former club. He said he would be travelling to France next week to continue training for the World Cup.

"I've been ready for the challenge for several months," he said. "If you want it, nothing's impossible."

Vladimir Kolosov, head of the Russian football federation, opposes banning Russia's "rebel" players from the

national side, although the idea is backed by the federation's disciplinary committee. Sport Express newspaper said yesterday: "I am categorically against sanctions."

Kolosov told the paper: "The disciplinary committee recommended the dissident group of players be banned from the national side for two years and also wanted to block any transfer moves involving them. However, Kolosov said the federation could not possibly block the transfers of players already abroad since it had no jurisdiction over them."

The team's prospects for the World Cup finals during the summer have nose-dived since 14 players, many of them foreign-based, said in December they would not play again until Pavel Saduyrin, the manager, had been dismissed for incompetence.

THE TIMES

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Grange Brake earns glowing praise

By JULIAN MUSCAT

IF YOUNG Hustler approaches the finish to the Whitbread Gold Cup with the same relish that his trainer, Nigel Twiston-Davies, is closing the National Hunt season, there is little point in anything opposing him at Sandown on Saturday.

Fresh from taking the two big races at Ayr five days ago, Twiston-Davies served up a similar helping at Cheltenham yesterday to emphasise the rude health of his string.

Cash Assmusen will take the 2,000 Guineas ride on Unblest, an unlucky fifth under George Duffield in the European Free Handicap at Newmarket last week. A jockey for the Craven Stakes third, Supplis, is unlikely to be finalised until next week.

Gospel may have earned the lion's share of the bounty after running away with the £25,000-added EBF National Hunt Novices' Hurdle Final, but Grange Brake's winning effort in the following race, the Golden Miller Handicap Chase, looked so improbable at one stage as to almost defy belief.

Less than two weeks ago, Grange Brake ploughed through the Aintree quagmire to eclipse a competitive field. This time, on ground so fast that it was to precipitate a plethora of withdrawals, the eight-year-old landed a spent force fully seven fences from home. He took a narrow lead three fences out under hand driving from David Bridgwater, but it was surely on surferance as Buck Willow joined him at the last.

Not a bit of it. By now visibly exhausted, Grange



The winner, Boscean Chieftain, leads the runner-up, Crystal Spirit, over the water jump in the SW Shower Supplies Novices' Chase at Cheltenham

Brake somehow summoned hidden reserves to stride away from Buck Willow by six lengths. That was good to watch," said the trainer, a man of few words in victory or defeat.

Gospel's victory required few such heroics. Sent on three hurdles out, the mare bounded further and further clear to make a mockery of the handicap. This victory came as fitting reward for Gospel's owner, Jenny Powell, whose promising chaser, Gaelstrom,

had her season curtailed by a hairline fracture.

Young Hustler's Whitbread rivals were thinned out by two yesterday. The Hennessy winner, Cogent, has succumbed to a throat infection and Major Boy, the Grand National third, will also miss the race. Cogent's trainer, Jeremy Glover, reflected: "It's been that way with my horses all season. They have all been hit by something or other at different times."

Arctot is a Glover charge free

of infection to judge by his victory in the opening Cheltenham Sponsorship Club Handicap Hurdle. Often a frustrating customer, Arctot put his best foot forward under an admirable ride from Graham McCourt and never looked in danger of defeat. In contrast, it took more than 15 minutes for Boscean Chieftain to be called the short head winner of the SW Shower Supplies Novices' Chase from the luckless Crystal Spirit.

There was an interesting

footnote to the day's events. Josh Gifford, out of luck with Buck Willow, recalled his then Sussex cricketer, Tony Pigott, at Hove three years ago. No mean trainer, Gifford can evidently bow to some effect, too, for one of his victims was none other than the West Indies batsman, Brian Lara, who struck a record-breaking 375 against England in Antigua earlier this week. Lara's contribution amounted to a humble ten runs.

Further examination of the scorecard revealed that Lara had in fact reciprocated by taking Gifford's wicket. "Ah," recalled the ebullient trainer, "but I made one more run than he did."

Cl Michael Kinane received

FRONTWELL

THUNDERER
2.20 Leap Into Spring, 2.50 Island Forest, 3.20 Greenwile, 3.50 Dependable, 4.20 Call Home, 4.50 Dextra Dove, 5.20 My Wizard.
The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings: 4.20 Call Home.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) SIS


2.20 AMBERLEY NOVICES HURDLE

(11.5.43; 2m 20) (20 runners)
1 4554 HAWK THUNDER 22 (5.5) 11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-1229-1230-1231-1232-1233-1234-1235-1236-1237-1238-1239-1240-1241-1242-1243-1244-1245-1246-1247-1248-1249-1250-1251-1252-1253-1254-1255-1256-1257-1258-1259-1260-1261-1262-1263-1264-1265-1266-1267-1268-1269-1270-1271-1272-1273-1274-1275-1276-1277-1278-1279-1280-1281-1282-1283-1284-1285-1286-1287-1288-1289-1290-1291-1292-1293-1294-1295-1296-1297-1298-1299-1300-1301-1302-1303-1304-1305-1306-1307-1308-1309-1310-1311-1312-1313-1314-1315-1316-1317-1318-1319-1320-1321-1322-1323-1324-1325-1326-1327-1328-1329-1330-1331-1332-1333-1334-1335-1336-1337-1338-1339-1340-1341-1342-1343-1344-1345-1346-1347-1348-1349-1350-1351-1352-1353-1354-1355-1356-1357-1358-1359-1360-1361-1362-1363-1364-1365-1366-1367-1368-1369-1370-1371-1372-1373-1374-1375-1376-1377-1378-1379-1380-1381-1382-1383-1384-1385-1386-1387-1388-1389-1390-1391-1392-1393-1394-1395-1396-1397-1398-1399-1400-1401-1402-1403-1404-1405-1406-1407-1408-1409-1410-1411-1412-1413-1414-1415-1416-1417-1418-1419-1420-1421-1422-1423-1424-1425-1426-1427-1428-1429-1430-1431-1432-1433-1434-1435-1436-1437-1438-1439-1440-1441-1442-1443-1444-1445-1446-1447-1448-1449-1450-1451-1452-1453-1454-1455-1456-1457-1458-1459-1460-1461-1462-1463-1464-1465-1466-1467-1468-1469-1470-1471-1472-1473-1474-1475-1476-1477-1478-1479-1480-1481-1482-1483-1484-1485-1486-1487-1488-1489-1490-1491-1492-1493-1494-1495-1496-1497-1498-1499-1500-1501-1502-1503-1504-1505-1506-1507-1508-1509-1510-1511-1512-1513-1514-1515-1516-1517-1518-1519-1520-1521-1522-1523-1524-1525-1526-1527-1528-1529-1530-1531-1532-1533-1534-1535-1536-1537-1538-1539-1540-1541-1542-1543-1544-1545-1546-1547-1548-1549-1550-1551-1552-1553-1554-1555-1556-1557-1558-1559-1560-1561-1562-1563-1564-1565-1566-1567-1568-1569-1570-1571-1572-1573-1574-1575-1576-1577-1578-1579-1580-1581-1582-1583-1584-1585-1586-1587-1588-1589-1590-1591-1592-1593-1594-1595-1596-1597-1598-1599-1600-1601-1602-1603-1604-1605-1606-1607-1608-1609-1610-1611-1612-1613-1614-1615-1616-1617-1618-1619-1620-1621-1622-1623-1624-1625-1626-1627-1628-1629-1630-1631-1632-1633-1634-1635-1636-1637-1638-1639-1640-1641-1642-1643-1644-1645-1646-1647-1648-1649-1650-1651-1652-1653-1654-1655-1656-1657-1658-1659-1660-1661-1662-1663-1664-1665-1666-1667-1668-1669-1670-1671-1672-1673-1674-1675-1676-1677-1678-1679-1680-1681-1682-1683-1684-1685-1686-1687-1688-1689-1690-1691-1692-1693-1694-1695-1696-1697-1698-1699-1700-1701-1702-1703-1704-1705-1706-1707-1708-1709-1710-1711-1712-1713-1714-1715-1716-1717-1718-1719-1720-1721-1722-1723-1724-1725-1726-1727-1728-1729-1730-1731-1732-1733-1734-1735-1736-1737-1738-1739-1740-1741-1742-1743-1744-1745-1746-1747-1748-1749-1750-1751-1752-1753-1754-1755-1756-1757-1758-1759-1760-1761-1762-1763-1764-1765-1766-1767-1768-1769-1770-1771-1772-1773-1774-1775-1776-1777-1778-1779-1780-1781-1782-1783-1784-1785-1786-1787-1788-1789-1790-1791-1792-1793-1794-1795-1796-1797-1798-1799-1800-1801-1802-1803-1804-1805-1806-1807-1808-1809-1810-1811-1812-1813-1814-1815-1816-1817-1818-1819-1820-1821-1822-1823-1824-1825-1826-1827-1828-1829-1830-1831-1832-1833-1834-1835-1836-1837-1838-1839-1840-1841-1842-1843-1844-1845-1846-1847-1848-1849-1850-1851-1852-1853-1854-1855-1856-1857-1858-1859-1860-1861-1862-1863-1864-1865-1866-1867-1868-1869-1870-1871-1872-1873-1874-1875-1876-1877-1878-1879-1880-1881-1882-1883-1884-1885-1886-1887-1888-1889-1890-1891-1892-1893-1894-1895-1896-1897-1898-1899-1900-1901-1902-1903-1904-1905-1906-1907-1908-1909-1910-1911-1912-1913-1914-1915-1916-1917-1918-1919-1920-1921-1922-1923-1924-1925-1926-1927-1928-1929-1930-1931-1932-1933-1934-1935-1936-1937-1938-1939-1940-1941-1942-1943-1944-1945-1946-1947-1948-1949-1950-1951-1952-1953-1954-1955-1956-1957-1958-1959-1960-1961-1962-1963-1964-1965-1966-1967-1968-1969-1970-1971-1972-1973-1974-1975-1976-1977-1978-1979-1980-1981-1982-1983-1984-1985-1986-1987-1988-1989-1990-1991-1992-1993-1994-1995-1996-1997-1998-1999-2000-2001-2002-2003-2004-2005-2006-2007-2008-2009-2010-2011-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018-2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024-2025-2026-2027-2028-2029-2030-2031-2032-2033-2034-2035-2036-2037-2038-2039-2040-2041-2042-2043-2044-2045-2046-2047-2048-2049-2050-2051-2052-2053-2054-2055-2056-2057-2058-2059-2060-2061-2062-2063-2064-2065-2066-2067-2068-2069-2070-2071-2072-2073-2074-2075-2076-2077-2078-2079-2080-2081-2082-2083-2084-2085-2086-2087-2088-2089-2090-2091-2092-2093-2094-2095-2096-2097-2098-2099-2100-2101-2102-2103-2104-2105-2106-2107-2108-2109-2110-2111-2112-2113-2114-2115-2116-2117-2118-2119-2120-2121-2122-2123-2124-2125-2126-2127-2128-2129-2130-2131-2132-2133-2134-2135-2136-2137-2138-2139-2140-2141-2142-2143-2144-2145-2146-2147-2148-2149-2150-2151-2152-2153-2154-2155-2156-2157-2158-2159-2160-2161-2162-2163-2164-2165-2166-2167-2168-2169-2170-2171-2172-2173-2174-2175-2176-2177-2178-2179-2180-2181-2182-2183-2184-2185-2186-2187-2188-2189-2190-2191-2192-2193-2194-2195-2196-2197-2198-2199-2200-2201-2202-2203-2204-2205-2206-2207-2208-2209-2210-2211-2212-2213-2214-2215-2216-2217-2218-2219-2220-2221-2222-2223-2224-2225-2226-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-2248-2249-2250-2251-2252-2253-2254-2255-2256-2257-2258-2259-2260-2261-2262-2263-2264-2265-2266-2267-2268-2269-2270-2271-2272-2273-2274-2275-2276-2277-2278-2279-2280-2281-2282-2283-2284-2285-22

THE TIMES THURSDAY APRIL 21 1994

CHANNEL 4

6.35 Star Street. Animation (t) (3174957)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (46995)
9.00 You Bet Your Life With Bill Cosby (t) (s) (96995)
9.30 Schools: Middle English. Stones, Authors, Books. 9.48 Film and Video Showcase. 10.00 Equinox. Space Suit. 10.54 Schools. At Work. 11.00 Renewing the Landscape. 11.20 A Sense of Tradition. 11.45 The French Programme. Videohèque (431570)
12.00 House To House: Political magazine (76131)
2.30 Seaside Street. The guest is actor Mel Gibson (t) (49792). 1.30 Widgeo (t) (25995)
2.00 FILM: Isn't Life Wonderful (1953) starring Cecil Parker, Donald Wolf, Eileen Herlie and Eleanor Summerfield. Comedy, set at the turn of the century about a family trying to impress their future, and very wealthy, in-laws. Directed by Harold Krash (42995)
3.30 FILM: Railrodder (1966) A Buster Keaton short in which he travels across Canada on a railroad-truck speeder paying homage to his finest hour in *The General*. Directed by Gerald Poterson (618)
4.00 Secrets of the Mirror In the third of the seven-part series about Elmore Chis, Chapman travels to the Barle Valley from Whirlypool to Smonsbath (t) (353)
4.30 First To One. (Teletext) (s) (537)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show A discussion on Martha Stewart, a successful home-maker and designer. (Teletext) (s) (6002421)
5.50 Deputy Dawg Cartoon (781570)
6.00 The Wonder Years. American teenage comedy, series (t). (Teletext) (402)
6.30 Running the Halls High school comedy. (Teletext) (s) (222)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (297976)
7.50 Comment. (Teletext) (438044)
8.00 [CHOICE] Heaven Hell and Suburbs: Gnome Alone (Teletext) (3150)



Russell Harris takes the plunge (5.30pm)

3.30 The Great Outdoors. Russell Harris explores one of the thousands of wrecks around the British coastline; Trevor Ward looks at the joys of caravanning; and Sheryl Simms finds out why so few of Britain's black population brave the great outdoors. (Teletext) (6957)

4.00 Black Bag Special: Stars, Tsars and Swastikas The second and final part of the look into the rise and fall of racism in the supermarkets (9808)

4.00 FILM: Songwriter (1984) starring Kris Kristofferson and Willie Nelson. The story of two country and western singers, partners in their youth, who go their separate ways: one to a troubled stardom with mental problems, the other an uncommitted rebel only to reform in order to thwart a double-dealing money man. Directed by Alan Rudolph. (Teletext) (S) (597131)

4.45 Love Talk. A woman who was raped as a teenager talks about how she overcame the trauma (7) (494247)

5.20am Dispatches (7). (Teletext) (7678385)

5.45 Riders Of The Dawn. Episode four of the five-part Spanish drama. English subtitles (7) (4639174)

SATELLITE

Special Forces (2546) 7820 **10.00** *Wm. W. McGarvey*
(6638363) **11.00** *Monty Python's* (141)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM *Main Street to Broadway* (14)
bwf: A playright becomes a success
(6483150) **2.00** *FILM* *It Happened One Night*
World's Fair (1935): *Elke Prosky* var
(6621063) **4.00** *The Mothers-in-Law*
(387632) **4.30** *My Three Sons* (749)
5.00 *Beverly Hills* (403537)
Hogan's Heroes (379208) **0.00** *Saboteur*
London (3482861) **4.30** *Men from Intero*
(2447151) **7.00** *Young Dynasty* (40119)
7.30 *Duilly's Tavern* (604755) **8.00**
Adventures in Living (00 FILM *Night of the Ghouls*
1958, bwf: *Comes horror*
Dudley Moore (3363150) **10.30**
(2434747) **11.00** *Mary Hartman* (33044)
11.30 **12.00** *Dorothy and Moe* (4749570)

UK LIVING

6) 10.00 Football: H

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm The Wonder Years (#082) 5.30
Black Station (6179) 9.00 Trivial Pursuit
(6792) 6.30 Catchphrase (7044) 7.00
The Dick Cavett Show (6385)

that his wife loved

(1979) 1.20-1.00am Remington Steele
with Pierce Brosnan (66006)
MTV
5.00am Wild Side (876918) 8.00 V.I.
(309792) 11.00 Soul (82941) 12.00 Greatest
Hits (81695) 1.00am V.I. Sinner (The Reg
3.00 Sports (1985) 3.30 The 878
(1828976) 2.40 All the Movies (19141)
4.00 News (851421) 4.15 3 from 1
(851421) 4.30 Deal With It (8557) 5.00 Movie
Non-Stop (35773) 7.00 Greatest Hits (733)
8.00 Most Wanted (36773) 9.30 Beware of
Bull-Head (82315) 10.00 The Reg
(100083) 10.15 Movies (105518) 11.00
News (823112) 10.45 3 from 1 (8503)
11.00 Party Zone (13024) 1.00am V.I.
(82754) 2.00-6.00 Videos (566926)

TV ASIA
6.00am Perigot Down (45421) 7.00 As

SP2976) 7.45 Pupa

1.90 Full House (1941) [1941] New
 (2353) 8.00-4.00 TWA and You (7315) 7
 1.90 The Great Dictator (1941) New
 Hindi Film (24607-42) 11.15
 12.05am Five Past Midnight (147930-3)
 1. Slight and Sound (15877087)

TNT

Theme. Happy Birthday Anthony Quinn
 7.00pm The Twenty Fifth Hour (1987)
 Romanen peasant is used as an example
 Aryan Infection. With Viena Loo (#45537-71)
 9.10 Kirovskoy (1941, b/w) A retired boxer
 is turned back to the fight game by his
 promise of fame and wealth (#54027-73)
 9.30 Bullfight for Christs (1941, b/w)
 gangster's love helps an FBI agent to trap
 him (#70415-4) 10.00pm
 11.40 Westerns Fall Out (1941, b/w)
 elderly woman is kidnapped by a gang
 hoodlums. Starring Joan Leslie (#73650-4)
 1.05am Sworn Enemy (1936, b/w)

30 Treasure Islands

2. RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1. CLASSIC FM: FM 100-102. VIRGIN: PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXTED.

CLASSIC / M100-102

CLASSIC / M100-102

THURSDAY APRIL 21 1994

West Indies bowlers prove powerless against third-wicket pair Atherton and Smith in record stand

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN ANTIGUA

MICHAEL Atherton, who has never played better than on this tour, and Robin Smith, who can seldom have played worse, together expelled the fear that this series might end in further indignity for England with a massive, match-saving partnership in the final Test here in St John's yesterday.

After the headline deeds of Brian Lara, anything else this match produced was always likely to be relegated to the small print. But there was a pleasing symmetry about a new England third-wicket record against West Indies. The old figure of 264 had stood since the Oval Test of 1939 and been shared by Len Hutton and Wally Hammond, players who once held the batting record now passed to Lara.

Nor was this the only statistical nourishment from a day of serene batting in the most perfect conditions imaginable. Not for eight series between these sides, stretching back to the Headingley Test of 1976 when Tony Greig and Alan Knott each made 116, have two England batsmen scored centuries in the same innings against West Indies.

There has been a fearful amount of English grief in the interim but yesterday's liaison between the dominating captain and the despairing senior player ensured that England will emerge from this apparently ill-fated tour with a degree of respectability that looked beyond them up to a fortnight ago.

This is no negligible achievement, for to begin batting, as England had to do on Monday, following seven sessions in the field, a world-record score against them and only five wickets to show, required a steely, selfless resolve. Even on a pitch as stultifyingly unresponsive as this one, West Indies are acknowledged masters at exposing any weaknesses of character or determination.

When, on Monday after-

noon, the second English wicket fell at 70, the follow-on figure still a daunting 324 runs distant, the portents were ominous. But a full day's cricket passed without further loss and a match in which two wickets fell within the first half-hour had now produced only five more wickets in more than 20 hours.

Atherton is increasingly the rock on which England's fortunes stand or slide and his performance here was a measure of his determination that England should, for once, draw a game once it could not be won. Even before completing his second century of the

was also effectively stung by them.

This was his first century since his 123 in Colombo last March, 20 Test innings ago, and if it was only patchily vintage Smith, it was a stirring demonstration of his determination to retain his place. To the disbelief of the opposition, he was twice "out" to no-balls from Courtney Walsh, caught at mid-off when 34 and, yesterday, comprehensively bowled when 74. This was no flawless serenade in the style patented by Lara but comparing anyone with Lara is likely to become increasingly odious.

He stood impassively at slip yesterday, his sunglasses perched on his forehead, his thoughts, perhaps, occasionally straying to his native Trinidad where, on Friday, a national schools holiday has been declared for his homecoming.

Walsh, the deputy captain, tried everything available to him to disturb the immovable pair. The new ball was taken, when available, at the start of the second hour and, for a time, Curtly Ambrose did not spare himself. But there was nothing here for him.

Dig the ball in and it stood up invitingly for the pull or found Atherton striding back and across his crease in that commanding fashion of his. Pitch it up further and there always seemed to be a broad bat in the way.

The pair reached their hundreds in successive overs from Ken Benjamin, playing similar pull strokes to similar short balls. Atherton's had taken 82 minutes, or 78 balls longer, but was no less impressive for that, and it was instantly clear that, like Lara, he did not intend to settle gratefully for the single hundred.

By lunch, five of the game's ten sessions had been wicketless and, through the afternoon, little disturbed the batsmen's command. Smith was growing visibly in confidence, driving his new Hampshire colleague, Winston Benjamin, for consecutive fours with that familiar power, and as tea-time approached he passed his previous best Test score of 143. It was too late for him to influence the outcome of this series but not too late for personal reprieve.

Universities caxed, page 46



Tomorrow in The Times: the final scoreboard

series, his batting time in the five Tests was beyond 24 hours.

With him was a man who had this one last chance to recapture the form to compare with his status. Fail again, Smith knew, and he could expect no mercy when the new selection panel, under Raymond Illingworth, meets for the first time this summer.

Adding to Smith's sense of purpose was the thinly veiled accusation of the team manager, Keith Fletcher, that he has been allowing his extracurricular money-making to deflect him from his priorities. It was not something Fletcher had said lightly, nor even indelicately, and although Smith was hurt by the comments, he



Smith, watched by his captain, acknowledges applause for a century sure to prolong his Test career

ANTIGUA SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES: First Innings 593-6 (B C Lara 375, S Chandrapaul 75 not out, J C Adams 59).

ENGLAND: First Innings 131 (M A Atherton not out 131, J A Stewart c Ambrose b K C G Benjamin 24, M R Ramprakash bow b K C G Benjamin 19, R A Smith not out 171, Extras 22, Total (2 wickets) 367).

M A Atherton reached his 100 in 349 minutes (283 balls), hitting 12 fours.

R A Smith reached his 100 in 185 minutes (267 balls), hitting 2 sixes and 16 fours.

G A Hick, G P Thorpe, I R C Russell, C C Lewis, A R Coddick, A R C Fraser and P O R Tunnell to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40, 2-70. Umpires: S A Bucknor and D B Hair. Match referee: J R Field.

Walker 'inducement' costs Everton record fine

BY JOHN GOODBODY



Walker: took a risk

EVERTON were yesterday ordered to pay a record £125,000 for "inducement" of Mike Walker to leave Norwich City in January to become the new manager at Goodison Park. In a decision that seems certain to result in the Premier League amending its rules on the employment of managers and the registration of their contracts, Everton were fined £75,000 and ordered to pay Norwich £50,000 compensation and costs.

The three-man league commission cleared Everton of any clandestine approach to Walker. However, the commission concluded: "We find that Mike Walker handed in his letter of resignation to Norwich in the expect-

ation that Everton would offer him the manager's job and that he was prepared to take the small risk that he would not get the job."

The incident, which occurred on January 7, the eve of the FA Cup third round, provoked a dispute between the two clubs, with Robert Chase, the Norwich chairman, saying: "There must have been negotiations behind the scenes... either directly or indirectly." Chase insisted that Everton headhunted Walker through the media and that his departure financially damaged Norwich.

The Premier League commission, of Rick Parry, the league's chief executive, Steve Coppell, the former Crystal Palace manager, and chaired by Robert Reid QC, announced its

findings in a five-page summary of three separate meetings, spread over 16 hours. The fine is below the £105,000 that Chelsea were penalised in 1991 for illegal payments to players, although the total cost to Everton exceeds that figure.

Everton insisted they had complied with Premier League rules and had not induced Walker to terminate his contract, nor offered him employment. Everton are consulting their lawyers to consider an appeal. However, the commission found "there were one or more leaks to the press from Everton before any approach had been made to Chase" (for permission to approach Walker). Chase welcomed the decision. "Football will benefit from the

change of rules so that Mike Walker will be the last manager in the Premier League to have moved in this way," he said. "This was never really about money as far as I was concerned, it was about a principle."

Mike Foster, the Premier League secretary, said: "We are trying to put together a form of words offering protection to sacked managers, and to clubs who wish to retain their employees."

Oldham Athletic, like Everton, caught in the battle to avoid relegation, must now play six matches in the fortnight before May 7, with the possibility of three in five days, after their game with Tottenham Hotspur was postponed last night due to a waterlogged pitch at Boundary Park.

MORSE

SPARCS FLY.

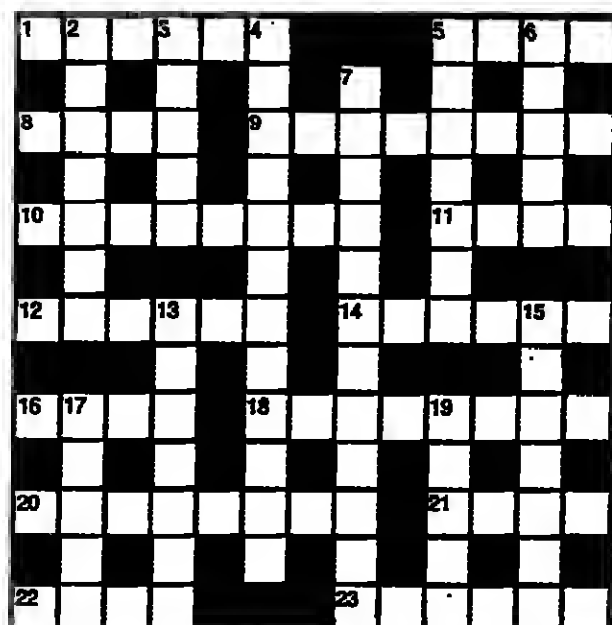


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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 144

- ACROSS**
- 1 Vegetable, salad stick (6)
 - 5 Smoking apparatus (4)
 - 9 Touch with lips (4)
 - 9 Relating to sailors (3)
 - 10 Apartment block (8)
 - 11 Highest point (4)
 - 12 Of unemotional temperament (6)
 - 14 Pulse, beat (6)
 - 16 Brought up (4)
 - 18 Helpful (8)
 - 20 Lute-like plucked instrument (8)
 - 21 Sodium compound; fizzy drink (4)
 - 22 Hold (hand) (4)
- DOWN**
- 23 Depression; animals' drink container (6)
 - 2 Obvious (7)
 - 3 Follow (5)
 - 4 US national song (6,6)
 - 5 Secusion (7)
 - 6 Tree; mathematical surface (5)
 - 7 Lepidopterists' trap (9,3)
 - 13 Feast of the Annunciation, 25 March (4,3)
 - 15 Furtive in appearance (7)
 - 17 Do in response (5)
 - 19 Enthusiasm, relish (5)

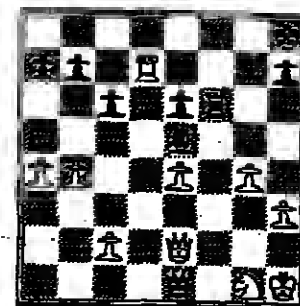
SOLUTION TO NO 143

- ACROSS:** 1 Junk food 7 Oxbow 8 Migration 9 Old 10 Oven 11 Teaser 13 Rotten 14 Ignore 17 Opined 18 Pulp 20 Bin 22 Halloween 23 Spent 24 Ex gratia
- DOWN:** 1 Jumbo 2 Neglect 3 Band 4 Nailed 5 Abhor 6 Swaddle 7 On the go 12 Delight 13 Rubbish 15 Opulent 16 Reflex 17 Onset 19 Parada 21 Poor

Today's position is from the game Dantes - Wexler, Mar del Plata 1951. Black has made dangerous inroads into the white king-side. How does he now complete the infiltration?

Solution, page 44

Raymond Keene, page 7



By Philip Howard

FAILANCE
a. The act of failing
b. A jousting lance
c. The autumn

FOGLE
a. To spy upon
b. A silk handkerchief
c. A senior citizen

SALICET
a. An organ stop
b. A hunter's net
c. "That is what I mean" SDXTE
a. An Anglo-Saxon square mile
b. To the sixth power
c. A posture at fencing.

Answers on page 44